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**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT**

**ECOTOURISM AS A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OPTION: CASE STUDY FROM  
BALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK**

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SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
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(IDS)**

*Title*

*Ecotourism as a Sustainable Development  
Option: Case Study from Bale Mountains  
National Park.*

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## Acknowledgment

I am highly grateful to my advisor Mulugeta Feseha (PhD, Associate Professor) for his constructive guidance, suggestion and encouragement throughout this research work. The Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority and Bale Mountains National Park Administration should be acknowledged because of the permission they offered me to undertake my research work in Bale Mountains National Park.

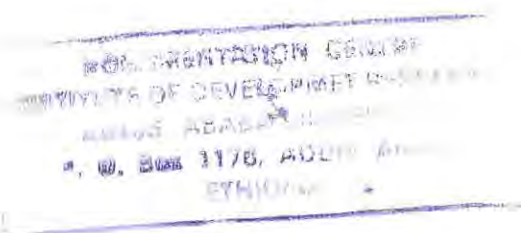
I would extend my special thanks to Anouska Kinhan, Frankfurt Zoological Society Deputy Project Leader for allowing me to use the library.

Dinisho Wereda Culture and Tourism Office and Bale Mountains National Park staff and the local communities should be cordially acknowledged for their collaboration and facilitation during the study.

Ato Beyene Tekele, Bashaw Haileselassie, Gebrehiot Difaw, Girum K/micheal, Mohammed Dejene and Tariku Desalegn should receive my special gratitude for their unreserved help.

The unfailing encouragement and support rendered from Tariku Ayele and Senait Regassa deserve particular thanks.

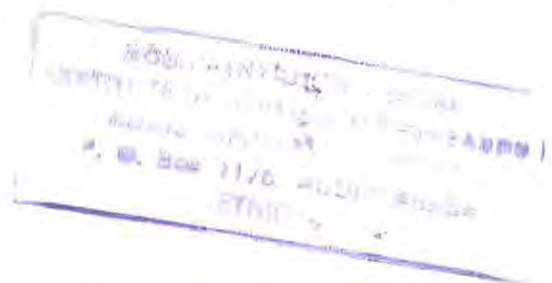
Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to Ejegayehu Alemu for her continuous and breathtaking encouragement and support throughout my research work.



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## **Lists of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

AFE:	Arsi Forest Enterprise
BMNP:	Bale Mountains National Park
BERSMP:	Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Project
FDRE:	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
ETB:	Ethiopian Birr (National Currency of Ethiopia)
EWCP:	Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project
FZS:	Frankfurt Zoological Society
GMP:	General Management Plan
IBC:	Institute for Biodiversity Conservation
IES:	International Ecotourism Society
MoCT:	Ministry of Culture and Tourism
NGOs:	Non-Governmental Organizations
PA:	Protected Area
STEP:	Sustainable Tourism and Elimination of Poverty
UNEP:	United Nations Environmental Program
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP:	United Nations Development Program
UNWTO:	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WTO:	World Tourism Organization
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
WWF:	World Wildlife Fund

## Abstract

*This thesis has attempted to uncover how ecotourism practices in BMNP proved to provide livelihood options for the local communities; and emerged to be a tool for biodiversity conservation. The study has carried out in BMNP considering Dinisho Wereda and four kebeles as sample. The rationale for the selection of Dinisho Wereda and the four kebeles is the fact that the Wereda has better tourism facilities, easily accessible; and the significant economic and environmental implications of ecotourism have been realizable and visible in this Wereda. The study has employed multiple methodologies. Thus, qualitative and quantitative research strategies; household survey design; and multi stage, purposive, and simple random sampling techniques have been used. The findings of the study has revealed that the baggage of local communities dependence on unsustainable use of the natural resources of park continue to exist. The local communities have exhaustively depended on agriculture as the main stay. Thus, ecotourism has hardly been emerged as an alternative livelihood for the local communities. Whereas the income generated from ecotourism has not yet been reinvested for community development and natural resource conservation. Biodiversity conservation has still been embedded within financial shortfalls. Ecotourism development in BMNP is not claimed to be economically and environmentally sound. It has been recommended that while carrying out any projects in BMNP where peoples' and resource interaction is high, the local communities interests should not be marred as a benefactor. Ecotourism activities should acquire specific policy guide lines and institutional basements. The development of ecotourism should explicitly recognize the sustenance of natural resources in reconciliation with the economic wellbeing of the local communities.*

*Key words: Ecotourism, biodiversity, livelihoods, income, sustainability and conservation*

## CHAPTER ONE

### Introduction

#### 1.1. Background

Ecotourism has been introduced in the 1980s as a potential strategy to support conservation of the natural ecosystem while at the same time through the promotion of sustainable local development. It is considered as more than just tourism in natural areas rather a complex phenomenon involving the integration of many actors as of tourists, local communities, government, NGOs, protected area administrations and the tourism industry. In ecotourism development, natural areas are not a mere setting for the establishment and hosting of ecotourism rather a myriad of symbiotic relationship whereby natural areas and local communities are considered at its utmost stances(Sillignakis undated:3).

Pursuant to this, ecotourism is assumed to generate income for conservation and economic benefits for communities living in rural and remote areas. It is for this very fact that it is incepted as a valuable tool for conservation. Its implementation can give economic value to ecosystem services that protected areas provide; generate direct income for the conservation of protected areas; generate direct and indirect income for local stakeholders, creating incentives for conservation in local(UNEP2002:9). Hence, it is viewed as a means of protecting natural areas through the generation of revenues, environmental education and community participation. In such ways, both conservation and community development are claimed to be achieved in a sustainable form. While providing enjoyable experiences in natural settings, the fundamental functions of ecotourism are protection of the exotic, pristine and remote areas, production of revenue, fostering education and community participation (Higham2007:16).

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

Bale Mountains National Park (BMNP) is established in 1970 and encompasses an area of 2400km<sup>2</sup>. As clearly stated in the General Management Plan (GMP) of 2007, the park's establishment has hardly considered the consent and knowledge of the local resource users. The park was merely established to protect the environment as a wilderness by excluding habitation and customary resource management practices. During the military regime (1974-91), the state control over the park was reached at its stiffest stage resulting in the forceful eviction of the local communities from their traditional livelihoods and land rights. The local peoples' feelings of anger and tender have pragmatically been witnessed at the fall of the military government in 1991. Not just a moment waiting, the local communities encroached into the park destroying the hotspots (GMP 2007:17-18, UNDP 2007:52).

The exclusion of the local communities and their unviable economic benefits from the park has also continued to exist up until recent times. The practical witness for this is the failure of the government to incorporate the wills and interests of the local communities in the re-demarcation proposal of the park's boundary which would possibly be effective in the coming few years. The local communities' cults have barely been involved into the projects undertaking in BMNP. Hence, they have no voice or perception of resources ownership (GMP 2007:24, Watson 2007:4).

Recently, hoping to enforce the World Conservation Union requirements, the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) has begun to regain control over the Protected Areas from the Regional Authorities. The enforcement, according to the World Conservation Union, as cited in GMP (2007), can include the exclusion of all human exploitation and habitation that have impeded the objectives of ecological conservation (Flintan, Fiona, et al. 2008:18). But the regaining of the Federal Government to control over the park is incepted by the local communities as another forceful proposal attempted to evict them from their traditional livelihoods.

Whatsoever the challenges it has faced, BMNP is an important conservation area in Ethiopian highlands, and has a great universal value for humanity (GMP 2007:23). The park is one of the 34 International Conservation Biodiversity Hotspots and qualifies for the World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve Listing. The park has Exceptional Resource Values which have global

significances. It is the centre of endemism and an important area for a number endangered Ethiopian endemics of all taxa. The park consists of 26% of the Ethiopia's endemic species. 56 % of the endemic birds of Ethiopia are found in BMNP. Moreover, the hydrological system of the mountain chains of Bale eco-region provides water for 12 million down streams users (GMP 2007:VII, Vail 2010:23). Nevertheless, the resource potentials of the park are damaging at risk rate. This necessitates the need to look for an alternative strategy that can address the loss of natural resources of the park and contribute to community development.

Ecotourism is proposed as an alternative development strategy that helps to integrate the environmental protection with the socio-economic developments of the local communities (Cater undated:19). It is assumed to provide sound financial sources for conservation and community development. As such the income generated from ecotourism is believed to be used for natural resource conservation and community development. But in practice, it has been observed while the income generated from ecotourism is appropriated back to the central treasury; and attaining natural resource conservation efforts and community development remains futile (Higham 2007:24, Duff 2002:3-5). Above all addressing the problems associated with livelihood needs of the local communities and protection of the environmental resources are the rationale for the dictation of ecotourism .Ecotourism is believed to meet such integrative goals. Maintaining the natural resources without harnessing the livelihood bases of the local communities are the foci objectives for the advocacy of ecotourism.

The rationale for the research 'Ecotourism as a Sustainable Development Option: Case Study from Bale Mountains National Park' is to examine how ecotourism practices in BMNP provide livelihood options for the local communities and emerge to be a tool for biodiversity conservation. The research will help to contribute to fill the existing research gaps in ecotourism development in Ethiopia.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

The research is intended to answer the following basic questions.

- How far ecotourism activities in BMNP have provided financial sources for natural resource conservation and community development?
- ❖ Are ecotourism practices in BMNP helping providing alternative livelihoods for the local communities?
- ❖ Who are the main stakeholders engaged in ecotourism development of BMNP?

### **1.4. The Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of the study is to uncover how ecotourism activities in BMNP provide livelihood options for the local communities and aspire to ensure environmental conservation.

The specific objectives of the research are to:

- Outline ecotourism resource potentials of the park
- Identify as to how the local communities have benefited economically and socially from ecotourism activities in BMNP;
- Identify the source of finance for conservation of the resource values of BMNP;
- Identify for what purposes the income generated from ecotourism is used and
- Identify the role of the major stakeholders engaged in ecotourism development

### **1.5. Significance of the Study**

It is vivid that national parks and protected areas are places where multitudes of the environmental resources are found together. These resources are hotspots to develop ecotourism because the settings of ecotourism are most often natural, virgin, pristine and exotic areas. These areas, however, are highly prone to internal and external threats. For instance, the exodus flocks of tourists and the encroachments of the local community into the parks proved to destabilize the natural settings of the park and protected areas. The case of BMNP has witnessed such facet. The park is endowed with a variety of natural resources; fauna and flora. The park also assures a scenic land marks. But, the park has emerged to lose natural wealth if not properly managed and

protected. As recommended by most scholars if not perfectly, ecotourism is forwarded to maintain the natural wealth of the park without harnessing the livelihoods of the local population. Thus, the significance of the study is to:

- Simulate interested groups to undertake their research in the study area;
- Aware policy makers to look for appropriate legislative and institutional frameworks for ecotourism development.
- Aware the main stakeholders involved about the rationality and necessity of their integrity and cooperation to maintain the natural wealth of the park.

## **1.6. Methodology**

### **1.6.1. Research Strategy**

Qualitative and quantitative research strategies have been used as the basis of this research. Qualitative strategy has been used to collect a great deal of rich information through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and participant observation held at Gojera, Gofingera, Karaharee and Garembe Dima (Diniso Wereda), Robe and Goba. In this case, in-depth interviews have been conducted with 8 sample populations. Two focus group discussions have been conducted at Gojera and Gofingera. Whereas quantitative strategy has been used to determine sample size, comprehend, categorize, tabulate and analyze the research findings using numerical values such as percents, SPSS version-17, charts and graphs.

### **1.6.2 .Research Design**

Household survey has been used to overcome the problems of randomness. In this sense, in order to extrapolate about the economic, social and environmental attributes of ecotourism in BMNP, household survey research design has been used. Household survey has helped to purport descriptive information about the stakeholders involved in ensuring economic, social and environmental sustainability. Such research design helps to describe the problems inherent to the livelihood options of the local community and the prevalent challenges to cope up with. Thus, the economic, social and environmental related perspectives of ecotourism from theoretical to

practical application have been explained in line with ecotourism activities in the BMNP by this research design.

### **1.6.3. Sampling Techniques**

The research involves multiple sampling techniques. As a result multi-stage, purposive and simple random sampling techniques have been used to achieve the objectives of the research.

#### **1.6.3.1. Multi Stage Sampling**

Most of the time, multi-stage sampling technique is used in a complex design in which two or more levels of units are embedded one in the other. Hence, due to the existence of more levels of sampling units one in the other in BMNP, multi-stage sampling technique has been used. This sampling technique involves primary, secondary and ultimate sampling units. The Weredas, Kebeles and sample populations have been taken as the primary, secondary and ultimate sampling units respectively. Therefore, Dinisho Wereda has been taken as the primary sampling unit. Gofingera, Gojera, Geremba Dima and Karaharee (02) have been considered as the secondary sampling units. Whereas the ultimate sampling units have been determined to be 95 using sampling size determination techniques employed by most social science researchers.

#### **1.6.3.2. Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling technique has been used to select Dinisho Wereda and the four Kebeles which score significant tourism activities and easily accessible. The local communities who have been participating directly in tourism activities of BMNP in the forms of horse renting, horse porting, tour guiding, cooking, handcraft working and wood selling were also those who have been involved as a part of sample population. The selection of the stakeholders has also been conducted purposively. Hence, sample populations from stakeholders who were involved in an in-depth interview have been purposively sampled. The stakeholders have purposefully selected because their duties and activities are highly associated with tourism, conservation and community mobilization.

#### **1.6.3.3. Simple Random Sampling**

The selections of the local communities who are not as such intact with tourism activities of BMNP directly have been done using simple random sampling technique.

#### **1.6.4. Data Collection**

Two processes have been carried out to collect data and address the research questions.

##### **1.6.4.1. Primary Data**

Primary data have been collected using observation, interviews, questionnaires and focus group discussions. These data have been collected during the field research conducted in the BMNP in the months of February and March. The main objective of the field research is to conduct interviews, undertake focus group discussions and distribute the questionnaires among different stakeholders involved in one way or another in the development of ecotourism in BMNP. In this sense, focus group discussions and interviews have been conducted with the park administration, government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.

##### **1.6.4.2. Secondary Data**

In fact, information from primary data are not claimed to be exhaustive and dependable. Hence, scientific journals, articles, books, MA Theses and PhD Dissertations and different webs have been explored.

#### **1.6.5. Data Presentation and Analysis Methods**

Data collected by questionnaire surveys have been coded, mapped, categorized and presented in the form of percentages, charts, graphs and tables. Whereas data collected through interviews and focus group discussions have been recorded and translated into English and interpreted accordingly. It has also been transcribed in handwriting too.

### **1.7 .Scope and Limitations of the Study**

#### **1.7.1. Scope of the Study**

The study has been carried out in BMNP taking Dinisho Wereda and four Kebeles as the sample. The household number of the study area is at about 2055. Hence, the study population is 2055 households.

#### **1.7.2. Limitations of the Study**

The study is not claimed to be exhaustive and intensive. The research would have more comprehensive if it covers all the Weredas BMNP lies over. But it is only Dinisho Wereda that

has been considered as a sample. Secondary sources are rarely available because tourism as a sector was in fact neglected as an economic force and few scholarly researches have been conducted in Ethiopia. The problems become more severe in case of ecotourism. Reluctance of some of the stakeholders to cooperate and provide information could not be over passed too. The third is time and financial shortages.

### **1.8. Organization of the Research**

The research consists of five chapters. Chapter one contains the introduction, statement of the problem, research questions, objectives and significances of the study, methodology; and scope and limitations of the study.

Chapter two exhaustively treats ecotourism from theoretical and conceptual points of view. Chapter three briefly describes about the geographical, economic and environmental backgrounds of the study area. Chapter four deals with the presentation, analyzation, and discussion of the data obtained from field survey. The last chapter presents conclusive and summary information about the overall findings of the research. It also provides recommendations and strategic options to sustainably develop ecotourism in BMNP.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Literature Review

#### 2.1. The Demand for Sustainability in Tourism

Tourism has become a glimpse of hope for many developing countries to fuel their economic development and subsidize the serious budget shortfalls to conserve the natural environment. Outshining other economic sectors, travel and tourism have been glaringly grown over the past few decades. For instance, the WTO (World Tourism Organization) report imperatively stated as cited in UNEP that the receipts from international tourism grew by an average annual rate of 9% between 1988-1997. The international tourist arrivals reached more than 664 million in 1999 accounting to 10% of the world's population. This trend is projected to reach 1.6 billion in the year 2020. This means the economic importance of tourism has captured the attention of many countries of the world (Miller 2004:9-14, UNEP 2002:8).

However, the overwhelming ecological and sociological disturbances perpetrated to destinations have been either forgotten or given little attention. Today, those areas congested with tourists have experiencing a magnificent threat in cultural and biological diversity. These resources have been purportedly prone to characteristics depletion of conventional mass tourism. Consequently, mass tourism has been criticized for the fact that it dominates tourism within regions owing to its non-local orientation and the fact that very little money spent within the destinations actually stays to improve the quality of the life of the local people and to support conservation efforts (Duffy 2002:15, Ofosu Amaah 2007:17-19). It is quite often that hotels and mega resorts have been constructed in exodus amount in order to meet the demands of mass tourism industry. Above all, they are built using non-local products, have little requirement for local products and owned by metropolitan interests. The motive to score development with the concentration of tourists in very high densities proved to displace the local people from their traditional subsistence livelihoods. Attractions that lie in and around these massive developments are created and transformed to meet the expectations and demands of the visitors (Ofosu Amaah 2007:17-19 ).

Above all, emphasis has often been put on commercialization of natural and cultural resources. The picture of conventional mass tourism pointed out in above assertion indicates that tourism industry has not always operated with the interests of the local people and the resource base rather aims to merely fuel the economic development of the nations(Higham2007:24-30, Duff 2002:3-4). Nevertheless, today's approaches to tourism development are geared at eliminating the baggage and introducing an array of benefits to natural environments and local people. This alternative tourism is labeled as 'sustainable', 'eco' and 'responsible' strive to make tourism profits work for local environments and communities rather than against them. Among these new approaches, ecotourism stands out as a sustainable tourism for its promises to advance in supporting conservation efforts and providing economic alternatives for the local communities (Higham2007:24-30, Duff 2002:3-4,Dowling and Fennel undated:4-6).

## 2.2. Evolution of Ecotourism

Ecotourism has been evolved as theoretical concept, policy strategy and business venture due to the boom in global travel, the spread of environmentalism and neo-liberal economies to the developing world and to the chronic budget shortfalls hampering conservation efforts. And it has opened a new hope for some developing countries to foster the community development through resource conservation. It emerged in the late 1980s as a direct result of the world's acknowledgment of environmental protection and reaction to unsustainable use of the environmental resources and damaging global ecological practices (Diamantis undated: 93-94, Higham 2007:70-78.). As cited in Basco's work, Figgis described this convergence as presented below;

*Overall ...ecotourism was to some degree the right idea at the right time. Tourism interests were looking for areas where their country had competitive advantage and new angles to market their countries or regions. Environmentalists were looking for reasons why governments should conserve land as well as examples of green industries and an alternative to the rapacious model of massive tourism. Indigenous and rural communities were looking for alternatives to destructive industries, new employment opportunities. Governments were looking for economic developments, income from the protected area assets and lower costs in land management (Basco undated: 1).*



The above assumption reveals that ecotourism is evolved to cope up the problems of environmental degradation, the economic marginalization of the local community and the irrevocability of the natural environment and human interaction.

The problems associated with mass tourism have been further elaborated and it has been condemned for the adverse effects it impedes on the social, economic and environmental resources of the local community. The problems critical to mass tourism is further underlined by Munt, Higinio, Shoman, Britton and Preze as mentioned in Wolf's work , which is presented as follows:

*Tourism was often condemned as 'whorism' and the industry was seen as elite controlled and was thought to reinforce patterns of international inequality, exploitation and dependency and contribute to environmental degradation (Wolf undated: 4).*

Furthermore, mass tourism has been strongly criticized for the fact that the attention was given to adopt nature to the jargon of economics, which is demand driven. Whereas ecotourism is considered as a strategic option meant to abolish the tourism centric planning syndrome and hence opt to be a supply driven (Diamantis undated: 104-105).

Still there are scholars who do not agree on the above assumption and contend that the prefix 'eco' attached to tourism is believed to convince the tourists that the trip is ecologically sound. Those scholars conceptualized 'eco' as an artificial brand created and did little or nothing to conserve the environment. They considered it as eco-exploitation whereby large companies take advantage of niche in the market to 'eco-sell' the same as conventional mass tourism (Duff, 2002: X-XI). This idea has been further elaborated by Wheeler as cited in Higham's work as follows:

*By closing itself in a green mantle ,the industry is being provided with shield with which it can both deflect valid criticisms and improve our image while in reality continuing its familiar short tourism commercial march (Higham, 2007:3).*

But, the most important distinguishing characteristic of ecotourism is the imperative of operating in an environmentally, economically, and socio-culturally sustainable manner (Duffy, 2002:99-100, UNEP2002:11, Higham 2007:27). Of course, all tourism should operate in such way, but ecotourism is the only tourism sector in which sustainability is inherent of its definition. This means ecotourism has a special responsibility to engage in the challenging and often confusing debate over the issue of sustainable tourism, which requires that tourism protects the natural environment of the destination, maintains social and cultural integrity and promotes the economic well being of the local communities. In other words, it is the mandate and responsibility of ecotourism to support the holistic development of the destinations. Hence, in a genuine ecotourism, the positive impacts are mostly deliberate, whereas the negative impacts are unintentional (Weaver and Lawton 2008:2, Rahemtulla and Wellstead 2001:7).

Ecotourism is nowadays emerged as a growing niche market within the larger travel industry, with the potential of being an important sustainable development tool. With billions of dollars in annual sales, ecotourism is a real industry that seeks to take advantage of market trends. Such tourism differentiates itself from mass tourism in several ways. Unlike mass tourism, ecotourism is small in scale, locally controlled and undistruptive to the local community. At the same time, it frequently operates quite differently than other segments of tourism industry because ecotourism is defined by its sustainable development results; conserving natural areas, educating visitors about sustainability and benefiting the local people (UNEP 2002:27).

The effectiveness of using ecotourism as a means for sustainable environmental conservation and community development is still uncertain. It is grounded and extended by responsible NGOs not really decentralized or community oriented. Thus, its longevity and durability depends on those NGOs who have taken initiatives and sponsorships in developing ecotourism projects (Neth 2008:45, UNEP 2002:11). This means the notion to incorporate the local community as the main stakeholder is neglected or rarely considered. Mostly, the level of local community involvement in ecotourism development is very much minimal in least developing countries. The notion behind such neglection is that the local communities are viewed as incapable to plan, manage and run tourism sectors and hence just like economic development; ecotourism development continues to be driven by the government rather than the community interests. This becomes a regular phenomena happening in countries with records of human rights abuse, where

governments displace local people even sometimes enslave them as workers to build mega resorts and other tourism sites (Garrod undated :5).

Most often ecotourism developments in least developing countries are operated within such scenario. When the prime initiators and sponsors of ecotourism projects showing a down turn tendency to sponsor it, the continuity of the projects remains tag tide. So the issue of sustainability, which is the center of ecotourism, is merely observed as a vow. Externalization of the planning, developing and managing of ecotourism may be unsuccessful at last.

Whatever the argument could be, the degrading sociological and environmental impacts associated with conventional mass tourism have intonated the inspiration to look for a more sustainable form of tourism (Wood 1998:7). Hence, ensuring sustainability in tourism has got a large momentum since 1980s.

Literarily, Sustainable tourism refers to the conservation of the natural, historical and cultural resources hoping to maintain it for the future generations. As cited in Andrade's work, Sustainable tourism is further defined as '*Tourism that meets the needs of present tourists and hosts regions while protecting and enhancing opportunities for the future*' (Andrade 2008:12).

Based on the concept and pillars of sustainable development of the UNWTO as cited in Andrade's work, three main principles of sustainable tourism have been identifies. These are:

- ❖ Optimum use of the environmental resources: this principle highly underpinned that tourism development must aim to maintain essential ecological process and conserving natural heritage and biodiversity.
- ❖ Respect the socio-cultural authenticity of host communities: tourism is claimed to conserve the cultural heritages and traditional values of the host communities and contributing to intercultural understanding and tolerance.
- ❖ Ensure long term economic benefits for the local communities: sustainable tourism is proved to provide the local communities with alternative livelihoods (Andrade 2008:12).

The above principles generally pretend that sustainable tourism has to establish a suitable balance among the three dimensions (economic, environmental and socio-cultural) to guarantee its long term sustainability.

Thus, from the above assertions it is possible to conclude that ecotourism is evolved as a sustainable tourism with the prime objectives of maintaining the three dimensions of sustainability (economy, environment, and society and culture). It has been emerged as the most promoting methods of integrating natural resources conservation, local income generation and cultural revitalization.

### **2. 3. The Concept of Ecotourism**

Defining ecotourism has proven to be a bone of contention and has become contentious; drawing divided and polarized lines of debate (Higham 2007: 30-32). In its early days, it was merely seen as a form of tourism based on natural and archaeological resources. Some people have abused the term to attract conservation conscious travelers to what in reality is simply nature tourism (Drumm and Moore 2005:15).

On the other hand, various people and organizations involved have put forward a wide range of definitions which ranges from vague, cumbersome to concise and extended. These groups attempted to define it in terms of the benefits they supposed to enjoy. To this end, it has been defined as a form of nature based tourism in market place. But NGOs, development experts and academicians formulated and studied as a sustainable development tool (UNEP2002:11). As cited in Espinoza's work, the challenge of defining ecotourism is further explained as follows;

*The term has eluded firm definition because it is a complex notion which ambitiously attempts to describe an activity, set forth a philosophy and espouse a mode of development (Espinoza undated:1).*

The plethora of defining ecotourism as ascertained above is not easy in indicating diversity of perspectives, depth, restrictiveness and interests.

As cited in Matthews work, Martha Honey viewed ecotourism as:

*A panacea, a way to fund conservation and scientific research, protect fragile and pristine ecosystem, benefits rural communities, promote development in poor countries, enhance ecological and cultural sensitivity, instill environmental awareness and a social conscience in the travel industry, satisfy and educate the discriminating tourists and build world peace(Matthews 2002:7-11).*

There are people who display different thoughts which become a problem of putting technical definition of ecotourism. Hence, product and environmental resource management perspectives

have been identified. For example, when ecotourism is viewed from product points of view, its sustainability aspects are not addressed. In literatures focusing on this perspective, profit is often the goal rather than protection and conservation. That means when ecotourism is seen as a product, exploitation of the natural environment can lead to higher volume of visitors and more development and may increase economic benefits (Matthews 2002:4-6, Higham2007:30). Whereas, others viewed it as a small segment of nature tourism seeks to minimize environmental degradation by strictly limiting the carrying capacity of the destination. For these scholars, ecotourism is a principle and an ethics relating to the environment. Further definitional debates can be attributed to the sustainability criteria. The concept of sustainability remains unclear too. In short, this appears to be no quick fix to the problem of identifying an operational definition of ecotourism. The problem of putting a clear and technical definition of ecotourism on the other hand is because of the relationship it has with nature based tourism (, Rahemtulla and Wellstead 2001:5).

In most literatures ecotourism and nature based tourism are used interchangeably. But as cited in Matthews work, Goodwin defined nature based tourism as tourism activities that take place over the natural setting. In this case ecotourism is simply seen as a small scale of nature based tourism. Unlike other forms of nature based tourism, ecotourism is believed to be an active participant intended to signify economic, social and environmental sustainability. Whereas other typologies of nature based tourism are claimed to be passive, meaning the natural environment is simply a setting for the activity and does not directly benefit from the activity. Above all, nature based tourism may or may not be environmentally friendly or benefit the local community which are, however the central objective of ecotourism. Therefore, different definitions have been suited to different circumstances and compromises will have to be made. The choice of definition is hence inherently difficult.

In spite of the existence of such perspectives in defining ecotourism, most literatures unanimously agree that it is a small scale tourism that takes place over the natural setting with the motive of integrating natural resource conservation and community development projects ( Rahemtulla and Wellstead 2001:5).

## 2. 4. Ecotourism Activities

All types of travel and tourism activities are not culture based or nature based. Some of them may be the intermingling practices incorporating the cultural and natural tourism resources. For instance, as cited in Diamantis's work, Valentine has distinguished nature based tourism activities into three. These are activities exclusively dependent on nature (eg. bird watching), nature enhanced activities (eg.camping) and activities where the natural setting is incidental (eg,swimming). Smarton on the other hand as cited in Diamantis's work came up with four typologies of water recreational activities. These are kinetic, situation based, harvest based and substitution based.

- Kinetic experiences entail activities which involve the non mechanical powered activities such as hiking, diving and swimming.
- Situational based experiences embed the activities that strongly associated with unique in characteristics of the destinations and,
- Substitution or aesthetic experience –includes observation of the natural phenomena such as bird watching (Diamantis undated:103-104).

However, it has been claimed that ecotourism discourages a consumptive use of the natural resources and harvest based experience does not apply for ecotourism. The other three forms are believed to be embodied into ecotourism activities.

In most literatures, ecotourism activities are usually characterized by their non –consumptive and non- extractive use activities. Being non-consumptive in character, the activities embodied in ecotourism are those in which the wild resources are not affected by human interaction. Whereas consumptive use activities impose certain deliberate impacts on the natural wealth. For instance, hunting and fishing are consumptive use activities. Other activities are also grouped into low consumptive and such activities most often related to purposively observing a certain attractions such zoos, animal's parks and scientific research. Ecotourism related activities focuses on educational oriented recreation and on the enhancement of the knowledge through non-consumptive usage of the natural resources. In all the cases, ecotourism is based on the biological, physical, and cultural features both in protected and non-protected environments, in which the sustainability and/or conservation elements should signify its practices (Diamantis undated:103-104 ,Duff2002:X). Hence the following vacation and leisure activities and their relation to ecotourism are briefly identified.

**Table1. Ecotourism activities**

Non-consumptive use Activities(Ecotourism Activities)	Consumptive and Extractive Activities	Low Impact Activities
Wildlife watching	Fishing	Touring
Canoeing	Hunting	Boating
Hiking	Snowmobiling	Camping
	Ice fishing, etc	Horse riding
Photography		Cycling
Viewing northern lights		Rafting

Source: Rahemtulla and Wellstead2001:7. Diamantis undated: 103-104.

## 2.5. Guiding Principles of Ecotourism Development

Up until recent times many businesses and governments promoted ecotourism without understanding the most governing principles and guidelines. But establishing and setting internationally and nationally accepted principles and guidelines became the foci objectivities of different stakeholders engage in ecotourism development in 1990s.Hence, following the stakeholders' meeting held in 1991,the International Ecotourism Society(IES) has developed a set of principles which are embraced by the growing involvement of NGOs, private sector businesses, governments, academia and local communities. Specific guidelines and principles have been developed to meet the sustainability of ecotourism development. Thus, the following are among the agreed up on principles and guidelines set for to effectuate ecotourism development:

- Minimize the negative impacts on the natural environment.
- Fostering community pride and revitalizing the cultural values of the local communities.
- Maximizing the economic benefit of the local communities.
- Providing financial benefits to conserve the natural environment.
- Relying on the infrastructures that have been developed in harmony with the environment.
- Improving the quality of life.
- Respecting cultural differences and human dignity.

- Distribution of benefits fairly among the local community
- Empowering the local community to plan, manage and develop ecotourism businesses.
- Recognizing, supporting and promoting the community ownership of tourism (Quebec Declaration 2002:22, UNEP 2002:14-18.)

## **2.6. Holistic Approaches of Ecotourism**

Ecotourism is proposed to tackle both social and environmental problems; and emerged as a sustainable development option on the basis of sound environmental protection and community development. This is the point that has made ecotourism as tool for sustainable development applying the holistic development approaches (environment, society and culture and economic, commonly known as the Three Bottom Lines). Thus, the dimensions of sustainability, the foci of ecotourism are to integrate ecosystem, social justice and economic efficiency (Cater undated:1-2, Stronza and Durham 2008:1-3, Quebec Declaration 2002:60-65). The holistic approaches of ecotourism will be discussed in the following sub topics clearly.

### **2. 6 .1. Ecotourism: As a Strategic Option for Biodiversity Conservation**

The past few decades have witnessed the overwhelming of the naturalness of the parks and protected areas. This has intonated the sentiment to look for strategic option for natural resource conservation and cope up with the miscellaneous challenges of local communities' livelihoods. Conservationists have proposed numerous alternative strategies. But unanimous agreements have not been reached to deduce effective strategic alternatives to practically solve the degradation and depletion of pristine, exotic and remote ecosystems. These natural hotspots have been fall under serious threats .They have been facing serious challenges from the local poor who have few livelihood options. Most of the time parks and protected areas are far from urban areas and due to this they are the only resources base upon which the livelihoods of the local communities depend. Consequently, unsustainable use of the resources greatly impeded the natural wealth of the parks and protected areas. Besides lack of political commitment, few financial and human resources are among the aggrandizing problems that have been injected into the natural wealth of the parks and protected areas. Many governments have hardly addressed park management and conservation as a legitimate land use. The problem could have a multi-faceted approach in least

development countries. For instance, protected areas and parks in Africa, Latin America and South East Asia have been suffering from poor management, and lack of long term management plans and financial resource deficits (Brandon 1996:6-7, Cater undated: 18).

Ecotourism is proposed as a strategic option to ensure conservation of the parks and protected areas. It has been incepted as an array, tends to recognize the environmental wealth of the parks and protected areas; and has emerged with the so called 'nature based planning'. This implies ecotourism planning give prime attention for natures' needs not to nature tourism's needs or to adopt jargon of economics. Hence, ecotourism is a supply driven not a demand driven tourism element. Unlike other forms of tourism, ecotourism has to abolish the tourism centric syndrome and must adopt a more sustainable based approach (Diamantis undated: 104-105, Brandon 1996:6). Pertinent to this, five key benefits ecotourism provide for conservation have been identified as follows:

### **2.6.2. Ecotourism: As a Source of Finance for Conservation**

Ecotourism has emerged as potential source revenue to alleviate the financial constraints accrued to parks and protected area conservations. As such many conservationist scholars highly underpinned the justification and feels that ecotourism can financially contribute to the conservation and protection of parks. It generates direct and indirect financial benefits for the conservation of biodiversity by attracting ecotourists to the natural settings and using the revenue to fund conservation (Brandon 1996:7, Duff 2002:4-5, 10-15). The most common ways to capture revenue through ecotourism are:

#### **2.6.2.1. User Fees**

Studies on the parks and protected areas across the world reveal that the entrance fees to the parks are too low to cover costs. This is largely to keep parks and protected areas access for all citizens. Hence, the revenue generated in the form of entrance fees has been hardly contributed to conservation and protection of the resources that entice the visitors. But Kenya and Costa Rica, states of numerous eco-destinations have formulated and implemented different entry fees for foreign and national visitors. They have introduced two tier pricing strategy. Consequently, they managed to capture the revenues from parks and protected areas (Brandon1996:.8-9).

The introduction of two tier pricing has created a frustration of dropping the number of ecotourists. But current evidences suggest that ecotourists are not refraining from visiting to parks and protected areas with the introduction of two tiered pricing of entrance fees. The case of Madagascar strengthened this fact. For example a study of foreign visitors to Madagascar's tropical biological reserves indicate that the tourists might be willing to pay from \$276 -\$360 to visit parks which only charges \$11 per visitor. Hence, the modest price increment could not prove to result in dropping of the number of visitors. Even other research reveals that if the revenue collected goes back to the protection and preservation of the tourism products, the visitors are willing to pay more. So the policy and legislation questions have been raised to increase user fees to maintain the quality of parks and protected areas.

Actually, user fees are fees collected from the people who use an area or facility such as administration fees, fees charged to dives, trophy hunting and trekking fees. So the imposition of reasonable user fees is believed to encourage the conservation efforts of the parks and protected areas ( Brandon 1996:9)

#### **2.6.2.2. Concession Fees**

Conservation efforts of natural areas are also financially supported by those who directly or indirectly take part in tourism businesses. To this end, concession fees are proposed to be imposed. Technically speaking, concession fees are fees imposed upon individuals and groups licensed to provide services to visitors. So those who are licensed to provide food, logging, accommodation, transportation, guiding and retaining services are made to pay concession fees. In fact imposing concession fees are not without certain significant problems. In case of ecotourism, it is believed that the local people are the main actors in providing services. This can create a conflict between taxing to generate income for community works and decentralizing ecotourism to spread the benefits. Air port taxes provide a ready way to capture benefits but there is little link has existed between the collection of such taxes and ecotourism. In spite of such problem, concession fees are claimed to be the financial incentive to effectuate conservation and protection of the natural wealth of the parks and protected areas (Brandon 1996 8-9).

### **2.6.2.3. Sales and Royalties**

Parks and protected areas can also solve the financial challenges they can face in ensuring conservation efforts from sales and royalties. Sales and royalties are percentages of earnings from activities or products of site tourists visit. Such fees include sales and royalties' books, photographs or postcards, films, pharmaceutical products from the sites.

### **2.6.2.4. Donation**

Funds from ecotourism and other forms of nature based tourism are often appropriated back in to the central treasury rather than to the agencies which manage the parks and protected areas. The money generated does not found to provide the maintenance of the biodiversity of the parks or management of the parks. But the aspiration to provide financial resources has captured the attentions of many donors and ecotourists. To this end, individuals, multi-lateral agencies and tourists nowadays become forerunners to donate parks and protected areas conservation (Brandon 1996:8-9).

### **2.6. 3. Ecotourism: As an Economic Justification for Conservation**

Ecotourism provide strong economic incentives to protect and preserve parks and protected areas. It can generate income and increasingly valued the economic importance of wild life and biodiversity. And the economic value of wildlife and biodiversity will be greatly demonstrated by ecotourism activity and give what tourists are willing to pay to see. Economic valuation methods improve and increasingly used to reflect the costs and benefits of alternative forms of land use. This implies ecotourism is seen as a vivid strategic option to cope up with problems related to land-claim and ownership. Moreover, the economic justification argument provides an incentive to governments to increase fees, both to generate more revenue and ensure that the parks and protected areas are seen as valuable and competitive land use(Brandon 1996: 10).

### **2.6.4. Ecotourism Encourages Private Conservation Efforts**

Ecotourism is assumed to increase the desire of the private sectors to develop the habits of conserving and protecting the natural environment. In this regard the private sectors have presumed to take conservation initiatives including the establishment of special protected areas. Recent establishments of privately owned parks and protected areas in Latin American and

Africa have witnessed as to how ecotourism encourages private conservation efforts. These privately owned parks and protected areas could substantially contribute to local conservation efforts. The case of Venezuela and Chile highly strengthened how far ecotourism encourages private conservation efforts (Brandon 1996:10).

## **2.6. 5. Ecotourism as Livelihood Options for the Local Communities**

### **2. 6.5.1. Providing Local People with Economic Alternatives**

Local communities in most instances have been neglected from any economic sayings. This could easily be observed when parks and protected areas have been merely established to protect the environmental resources. The glaring growth of the rural population and the availability of few economic alternatives purportedly resulted in unsustainable use of the resources of once remote and exotic areas. The questions of fulfilling livelihood needs forced the local communities to engage in illegal hunting, logging, fuel wood collection and uncontrolled burning. Ecotourism is dictated to reconcile the economic needs of the local communities with conservation .Its prime objectives are to achieve protected area conservation by providing local people with economic alternatives. The range of approaches under ecotourism is based on concepts of sustainable use the environmental resources and sustainable development in rural contexts (Brandon1996:11-12, Diamantis undated: 108-110).

Hence, ecotourism is incepted as an integrated conservation and development strategy. It is to protect traditional lands rights of the local community from external threats as extractive industries or developments. Ecotourism development has the potential to provide alternatives to more traditional land uses, such as logging and agriculture, and can provide an impetus for economic alternatives for the local communities. The local communities could be viable to the traditional lands and opportunities for the enhancement of livelihood strategies in the future, which would be prevented by external ownership. As a result ecotourism may secure financial assets for communities and increase physical assets in the form of land itself and socio-political assets in the form of power of legitimization (Brandon1996:11-12, Diamantis undated: 108-110). Ecotourism is proved to provide direct payment schemes for local communities and private landowners for conservation of the ecosystem. This scheme infers the valuing of biodiversity, compensating local people for protected area impacts and; thus efficiently delivering measurable

results. The poor can benefit from increased income, diversified livelihoods, formalized land tenure and strengthened social organization (Duff 2002:13-14).

Lastly, ecotourism serves as source of employment opportunity for the rural people. It has most often believed to extensively generate employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for the local community. The local community could be hired to offer all services demanded by ecotourists. Therefore, the income may be captured locally and opt to promote the economic welfare of the local community. The issues as to whether this constitutes sufficient incentives to help safe the economy of the local people is open for debate. Ecotourism is assumed to change peoples' habits and reduce threats to protected areas. It could promote conservation by substantially benefiting the economic welfare of the local people. The more economic incentives provided for the local communities, the less livelihood dependence on the protected area. Ecotourism may in this regard have a potential to covert many resources dependent people into guides, small business owners and local lodge owners. Other important elements have been improved education, improved access to information, and improvement in park managements and increased economic opportunities. Therefore, ecotourism is seen as a strategic option that provides the local people with economic alternatives (Duff 2002:13-14, Watkin2003:13).

### **2. 6.5.2. Local Labor, Local Business, and Household Income**

In general sense tourism related employment is broadly grouped into three. These are direct (jobs related to hotels, motels, lodges, clubs, restaurants, souvenirs), indirect employment like as bus mechanic for tour company and induced employment- employment created from the expenditure of tourism (Duff 2002:13-15).It is imperatively argued that ecotourism can have a positive impact on the everyday life of the local people by improving local businesses, utilizing local labor, and increasing overall household income. Many permanent residents living in or adjacent to potential ecotourism destinations may desire to improve life opportunities for themselves and their children and may see ecotourism as generating jobs, stimulating incomes, diversifying economies, and enhancing standards of living. Ecotourism also increase local enthusiasm to ensure that benefits are equitably shared and that no one shoulders a disproportionate share of the cost. One of the best way that ecotourism can maximize its contribution to the local communities is for local residents to be involved in its management and operation. Hence, ecotourism is believed to retain as much work for locals than being given to outsiders, integrating local

economies, and making sure that economic well-being of households are improved rather than depreciated (Mametja 2006:23, Watkin 2003:13).

Besides, ecotourism enhances the establishment of local entrepreneurs and local businesses and brings the local people closer to local markets. Consequently, it is an important low-cost mechanism for local businesses and artisans to market and sell their goods and can serve as a spin-off for many other businesses, especially those in the informal sector. Above all ecotourism could link the local economy to other local economies, national economies, and international economies. Local entrepreneurs could contribute a substantial amount to building a tourism-based economy with a number of local economic multipliers. Advocates of sustainable development would argue that local entrepreneurs should have the opportunity to take advantage of the growth in tourism before their options are completely overtaken by foreign investment (Brandon1996:24-25).

#### **2.6.6. Ecotourism: As a Participatory Strategic Tool for the Rural Poor**

Ecotourism has been emerged as a response to curb the social and economic odds introduced consequent to the expansion of conventional mass tourism. As a serious shortfalls, conventional mass tourism has hardly incorporated the wills and interests of the local community and their voices have been barely inculcated into the projects related it. Instead, they have been excluded from the development of tourism related activities. The fate of the local people has been staged to the extent of evicting from their traditional landholdings and livelihood bases (Duff 2002:100). In this case, national parks and protected areas are common places where the local poor have being witnessing fired or arrested for the mere fact of trespassing and hunting in the areas that they have historically used. This means the local poor have not recognized as a stakeholder rather they have diminished and down viewed as benefactor. The state was found bargaining the local community from access to and participation form activities undertaken in protected areas and national parks (Drumm and Moore2005:41). The local poor have been incapacitated and do not have entitlement to traditional land rights; giving them little clout or control over the development of their homeland and work places and put down to economic marginalization. Tourism industry used local resources but with little economic benefits for the local people. Consequent to this, the local community continues to distrust tourism activities and

perceived ecotourism as just one more proposal to eliminate control over their land and communities' future(UNEP2002:44).

Nevertheless, ecotourism is claimed to be socially inclusive and ensure genuine communities participation. It has evolved as a promise to empower the local people to get control over the economic and social benefits and assorted in providing all sorts of benefits to the local people(Duff2002:98-99).For many local poor ,ecotourism has believed to reinforce land claims, acknowledge cultural identity ,land ownership and regain their access right of the resources. As cited in Zeppel's work, for the local people, sustainable ecotourism development is based on '*conservation of resources and empowerment of local people through direct benefits and control over tourism activities*' (Zeppel 2006:19).

The success of ecotourism highly demands the empowerment of community members through the participation and control of tourism activities, creation of employment, provision of training opportunities and fostering of entrepreneurial activities. This assumption is further elaborated as cited in Zeppel's work as '*holding the will, resources and opportunities to make decisions within the communities*' ( Zeppel 2006:20) are key for the success of ecotourism.

Mann substantiated the above assumption as cited in Zeppel's work and has deduced the following presupposition to underline the rationale of community participation to accentuate community development at large.

*If ecotourism is to be viewed as a tool for rural development, it must also help to shift economic and political control to the local community, village, cooperative or entrepreneur (Zeppel 2006:20).*

The above assumption reveals that ecotourism enhances the managerial and organizational capacity of the local communities to manage resources by establishing ecotourism operations in their own territories, and become better prepared to defend resources and even resisted outside interests.

### **2.6.7. Ecotourism Fosters Environmental Education**

Environmental education is another important component of ecotourism. Whether it is through tour operators, lodges, national parks, private reserves, or different types of ecotourism related activities, ecotourism enhances environmental education. And it is hoped to change the way

people (both locals and tourists) think about the environment. As a result it helps to build an environmental ethos, which can extend beyond the immediate scale of the ecotourism venture so that ecotourists become active advocates for conservation in the area visited and their hometowns or countries(Watkin2003:12).

## **2.7. Stakeholders in Ecotourism Development**

Ecotourism is a multi-sectoral tourism activity that requires different partners of various interests to involve. Some may be more important than the others. Whoever more important, the Success of ecotourism is highly determined by the strong integration among those stakeholders (Québec Declaration 2002:29-30). The key stakeholders indentified in ecotourism development are as follows.

### **2.7.1. Park and Protected Area Administration**

As ascertained in most of its definitions, the prime settings of ecotourism development are pristine, exotic, remote and natural areas easily prone to threats and damages. Developing tourism practices in such areas requires precarious measures most often taken and implemented by the administration of parks and protected areas. The skill, knowledge and motivation of the personnel undertaking the administrative functions greatly determine the success of ecotourism. In this case the administration is to skillful enough to closely work with all stakeholders in reconciliation with their interests .It is the administration and its personnel that could closely work with natural resources changes and opt to take diagnostic measures. Moreover, the park and protected areas personnel are still playing a key role in providing environmental education and hyping of the awareness level of the local communities and the guests(tourists) about environmental resources (Drumm and Moore 2005:24).

### **2.7.2. Local Communities**

There is an increasing recognition of the need of local communities' participation in planning developing and managing ecotourism activities. The mere assumption of considering the local communities as a beneficiary than benefactor put aside nowadays (Drumm and Moore2005:41, Brandon1996:29). But the degree of participation and who exactly participates remains a challenging issue. It is mostly underpinned that ecotourism gives the local people more opportunities to participate effectively in development activities, empowering them to mobilize

their own capacities to become a social actor rather than the passive subjects. To this end, ecotourism is taken as a community oriented tourism that aims to empower the locals to manage resources, make decisions and control the activities that affect their lives. Moreover, it outreaches the exercise and control of the local communities over tourism practices and has made them to make decisions on the level of tourism they want, the cultural practices they wish to share and the places where the tourist can go. Besides, it ensures the ownership and control rights of the local people over the resources of their area and inspires them to actively participate in planning actions to integrate their interests and motives in the tourism practices takes place in their locality. Because many local communities lack secure ownership or little title to the lands and resources that they depend on for their livelihoods. In many cases the places they live in are their customary user rights and even ecotourism can lead to conflicts over land claims. The local people with the little land rights were unable to receive benefits and merely belittled (Brandon1996:29).

The necessity and rationale of local community participation in ecotourism development is further explained as follows as cited in Sproule's work:

*----popular participation is, in essence the empowerment of the people to effectively involve themselves in creating the structures and designing policies and programs that serve the whims of all as well as to effectively contribute to the development process and share equitable benefits(Sproule undated:240).*

The above ideas reveal that the local community has a vital role to play in ensuring the very objectives of ecotourism. Above all, local community participation in ecotourism activities is important for two main reasons. Firstly, it is their homeland and work place that attracts tourists and activities related to it should not opt to go against the traditional livelihoods rather invited the local people to become the sole architect and engineers in planning and managing ecotourism activities. Secondly, the natural wealth of the settings of ecotourism could only be maintained if and only the local people take self mobilization and motive to conserve the natural environment. In this sense natural resource conservation can only bear fruit with the effective involvement of the local community (Drumm and Moore2005:25, UNEP2002:39).

Ecotourism can assist in spreading the benefits of development, stimulating economic activity and growth and provide an opportunity for diversification of the economy among the local community if and only if the local community emerged as a sole stakeholder. It can be a tool for conservation and rural development, but this will only materialize if a practical effort is made to incorporate local populations into the tourism industry. Involvement with local people and consequent rural development will not happen automatically. In some cases tourism activities in protected areas are not benefiting the surrounding population. Ecotourism will not contribute to rural development unless rural people are brought into the planning and development of the industry (Drumm and Moore2005:25, UNEP2002:39).

### **2.7.3. Government**

The institutional framework, the available human capital and ecotourism policy enforced pertains to determine the success of ecotourism. Ecotourism as a sustainable development option demands vivid laws, legislations and regulation formulated and enforced by the government. It also demands the prevalence of effective institutional framework tends to effectuate ecotourism development. Moreover, ecotourism development requires effective leadership who can combine and articulate the national goals with the goals of ecotourism. Government also demands to establish specific ecotourism policies in parks and protected areas. The government is the sole partner in developing suitable conditions for the local people to benefit directly from the establishments of national parks and protected areas in and around their homeland, and from the emerging ecotourism businesses. The specific responsibilities accomplished by the government are:

- Creating linkage and integration between ecotourism projects and other related projects takes place in the ecotourism destinations.
- Provision of technical assistance through the established government departments.
- Undertaking of market research and promoting ecotourism products and destinations through tourism bureau.
- Providing direct financial support.
- Formulation and enforcement of policies which allow for the flexible development of ecotourism enterprises.

- Licensing and registering of activities related to ecotourism (Drumm and Moore2005:26).

#### **2.7.4. NGOs (Non- Governmental Organizations)**

NGOs are valuable partners in the process of ecotourism development. They provide technical and financial assistances. NGOs' involvements in ecotourism development revolve around two focal areas. These are protection of biodiversity and environment resources; and ensuring sustainable development for the local communities. Hence, they can develop a myriad of programs such as research, training, community development, protected area management and target conservation initiatives (UNEP2002:37, Drumm and Moore 2005:26). They offer a means of communication with a great number of interested stakeholders in fostering ecotourism development. Frequently these organizations serve as facilitators between protected areas, sometimes providing financial and technical assistance or directly managing ecotourism sites. Above all, these organizations can serve as a vehicle for bringing together all elements of ecotourism. Thus, implementation of ecotourism, directly financing the projects, training and providing advisees for business partners are among some the focal areas whereby NGOs actively involve (Drumm and Moore2005:26.)

#### **2.7.5. Funders**

The financial constrains to cope up with natural resources conservation and community development are believed to be sponsored and funded by bilateral and multilateral donor agencies such as World Bank ,IMF and World Wildlife Fund(WWF) . These can fund the development of ecotourism through loan or grants. These contributions are often of critical values for parks and protected areas conservations; and sustainable ecotourism development (UNEP2002:.49, Drumm and Moore2005:27).

#### **2.7.6. Academics**

Academics such as universities and research centers are another group that plays a secondary valuable role in the planning, developing, managing and examining the overall effects of ecotourism development. It is this group that helps to frame the issues of ecotourism and raise questions whether ecotourism meets its stated goals or not. Researchers and academic institutions greatly contribute for ecotourism development by diagnostically evaluating the economic, environmental and social implications of ecotourism development (Ibid).

### **2.7.7. Tourism Industry**

Tourism industry is massive in character and highly interlinked with other sectors. It involves a variety of people engage in tourism activities in different approaches. The industry in broad sense consists of tour operators and travel agents who assemble trips, airline and other transportation service, mega hotels and lodges; hand craft makers, tour guides and other people who independently offer goods and services to tourists and governmental tourism bureaus. These groups play a vital role in clearly understanding and projecting the travel trend, identifying consumer behavior and what they want, and influencing the tourists by encouraging good behavior and promoting ecotourism (Drumm and Moore 2005:25)

### **2.8. Ecotourism Development: The Ethiopian Experience**

Ethiopia primarily derives its tourism income from cultural and historical tourism resources. This means the income the country deserves to earn from environmental and wildlife tourism have been scoring insignificant amount. Hence, the economic values of the environmental resources and wildlife of the country have been insignificantly recognized (GMP 2007:69, World Bank Report 2006:42).Whereas, in other developing countries wildlife and environmental resources are becoming increasingly popular attractions for international tourists (Tewodros2010:7-8). The country's biodiversity is quite unique compared to neighboring countries, some of which have famous safari destinations. Ethiopia's Protected Area (PA), which includes national parks, game reserves, wildlife sanctuaries and controlled hunting grounds, covers about 14% of the country. These protected areas offer ecotourism and leisure activities such as wildlife viewing, trekking, sightseeing and bird watching. Ethiopia has really places for outdoor lovers, as the choices of attractions throughout the country are open air. For the energetic walking and trekking, pony trekking and mountain climbing in the Semein Mountains in the north and Bale Mountains in the south. However, ecotourism development in Ethiopia is relatively new and the prime role of the sector has hardly been considered by the developers and policy makers (Wondifraw2007:26). In 2008 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched its new multimillion dollar ecotourism program, which is assumed to contribute to the development of Ethiopia's unique and potentially very lucrative ecotourism sector. It has also pretended to be the most important strategic tool to protect the natural resources and cultural heritage sites, as well as to improve the livelihoods and quality of life of local communities. In addition, the World

Tourism Organization (WTO) has chosen Ethiopia as one of the first countries to be targeted by its Sustainable Tourism and Elimination of Poverty (STEP) initiative. National parks are areas set aside for the purpose of conserving and protecting wildlife and objects of aesthetic, ecological and scientific interest. Inside the park activities like felling trees or exploiting natural resources prohibited in any manner unless these activities are for the development and management of the park(Tewodros2010:8) .

However ,the concern for ecotourism development in Ethiopia has shown a promising trend since 2002.Consequently,private developers ,NGOs, policy makers , governmental agencies and the local communities have begun to take initiatives to develop ecotourism as a tool for the conservation of the natural resources and economic alternatives for the local communities (Wondifraw2007: 27).

### **2.8.1. Ecotourism Practices in BMNP**

Ecotourism has a relatively long history in Bale Eco-region (BER) and if not at large scale animal watching, trekking and photographing have been carried out since the time of the establishment of the park. The Eco-region has a huge ecotourism potential. Recently, mountain trekking, trophy hunting and sport fishing becomes the potential revenue generating activities in the BER. The sport fishing can be merged with several other complementary ecotourism activities such as mountain (horse) trekking, tour guiding, horse rent, lodging, hotel services, cultural show, souvenir sales, exhibition (museum) and others(Mulugeta,etals.2009:28)

### **2.8. 2. The Wenchi Crater Lake Ecotourism**

The Wenchi Crater Lake ecotourism development is a local community-oriented geared to improve the livelihoods of the local communities by promoting ecotourism development through the sustainable use of natural and cultural resources. The objectives of Wenchi Crater Lake ecotourism activities are to create social and economic benefits through ecotourism and to foster the conservation of natural resources of the area. Ecotourism around Wenchi Crater Lake is a GTZ financed started in November 2002 with the cooperation of Oromia Trade Industry and Urban Development Bureau, Trade tourism and Transport Division. The objective is to develop and introduce a consolidated approach for Eco-tourism that can be replicated in other areas and that enhances the sustainable utilization of the natural resources.

### 2.8.3. TESFA (Tourism in Ethiopia for Sustainable Future Alternatives)

TESFA is an Amharic language referring to 'Hope'. As such, community based tourism has been established in 2003 in Meket to create a gloom of livelihood hopes for the local communities. The project was aimed to involve the local communities at grass root level. Its early formation was suffering from financial constraints. But keep in touch with Save the children, UK and Dutch pursued to continue the work in developing a community based tourism component for the Meket Livelihoods Development Program. TESFA is currently working with the World Tourism Organization to access funding to scale the work up in North Wollo Internet: <http://www.community-tourism-ethiopia.com>

### 2.9. Conceptual Framework

The concept of ecotourism is grounded by sustainability principles. As such it helps to generate revenue for conservation and community development. It also pertains to encourage environmental ethos, empower the local communities and create sense of cooperation and integrity among the stakeholders. The last objective believed to be achieved is sustainable development. Thus, the interdependence of this achievement is further elucidated as follows.

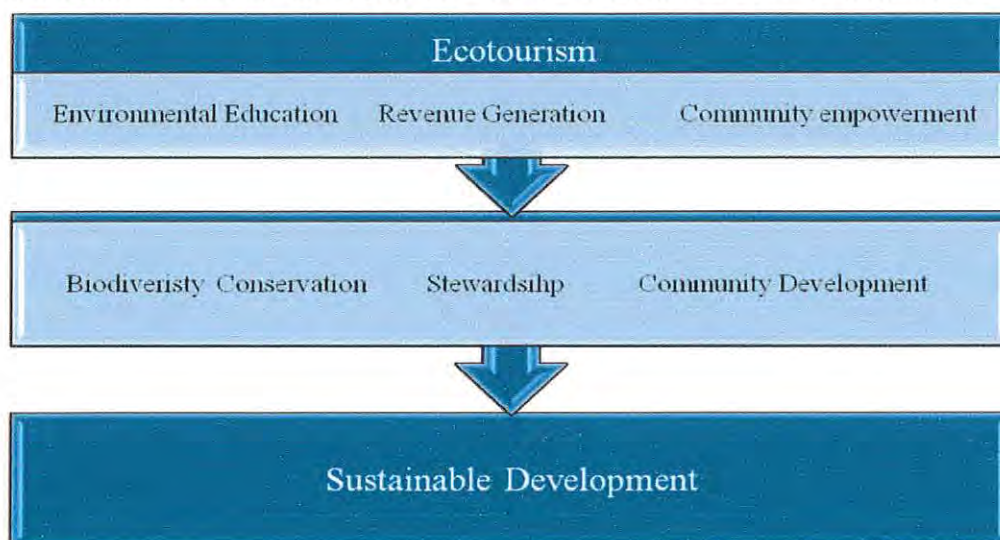


Figure1. Conceptual framework of the research

## CHAPTER THREE

### Description of the Study Area

#### 3.1. Location of the Park

The Bale Mountains National Park is located 400 km Southeast of Addis Ababa in Oromia National Regional State. The park forms significant component of Bale-Arsi massif and the southeastern limit of the Eastern Ethiopian highlands. The local boundary of BMNP lies within five woredas namely Adaba (West), Dinsho (North), Goba (Northeast), Dello Mena (South) and Harena Buluk (South West). The Park covers 2470km<sup>2</sup> within geographical coordinates of 6°29' – 7°10'N and 39°28' – 39°57'E. The largest area of the park is above 3000masl. Tullu Dimtuu, 4377m asl, is the highest peak in the Park and the second highest mountain in Ethiopia. (Getu 2010:18, GMP 2007:15).

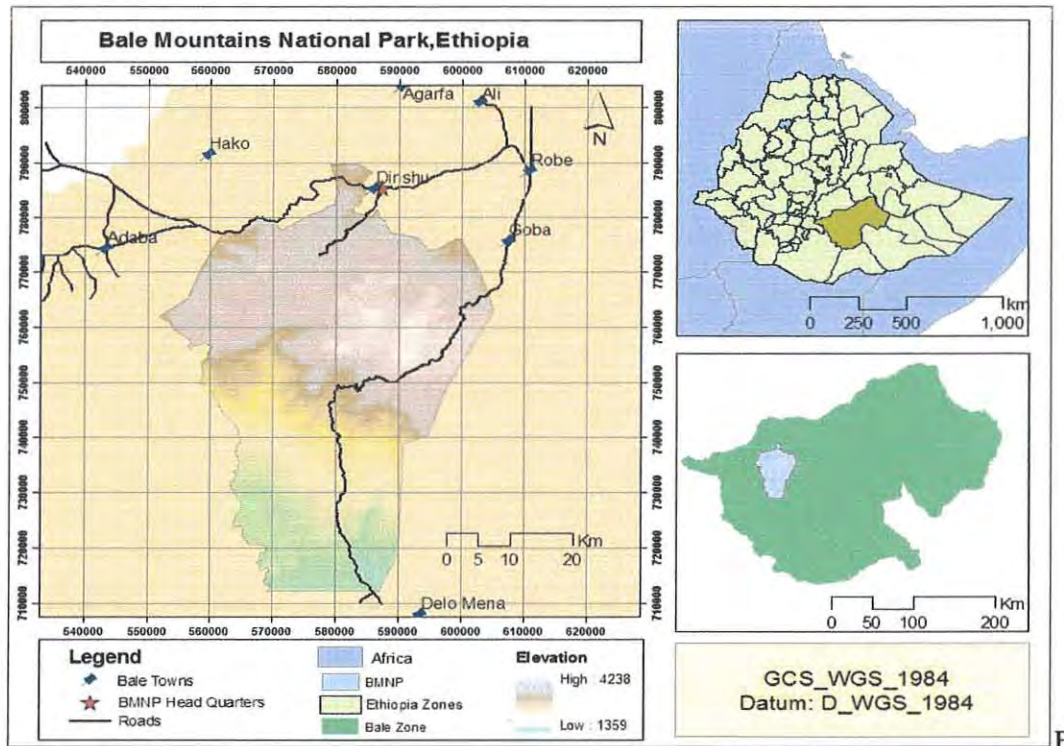


Figure2. Location Map of the Study Area: Adopted from Getu's MSC Thesis2010:16

### **3.2 Sections of the Park**

The park consists of three major ecological zones; namely Gaysay, the Sennatti and the Hareenna Forest.

#### **3.2.1. Gaysay**

Gaysay is the northern section of BMNP that extends from one mountain range to another. The altitude of this part ranges from 3000-3350m asl. When one explores the micro ecological variation within the Gaysay zone, the southern area is relatively dry and mainly covered by *Juniperus procera*. Whereas the northern ridge is relatively wet greatly dominated by *Hagenia abssynica* and *Hypericumrevolutum* (, Gozalbez and Cerbian2002:93-94).

#### **3.2.2. The Senatti Plateau**

This section is the central part of the park. This zone is mainly dominated by afro-alpine vegetation type. The vegetation dominates the Senatti Plateau include *juniperus spp*(2800-3350 masl) followed by *Hagenia Hypericum* between 3350-3500 masl. The area between 3500-4000masl is covered by *Erica* shrub. Much of the Senatti plateau lies over 4000 masl and the highest peak, Tullu Dimtuu(4377m asl) belongs to this part( Gozalbez and Cerbian2002:93-).

#### **3.2.3. The Hareenna Forest**

The Hareenna forest is the most moist, extensive and largely natural forest remaining in Ethiopia. This forest extends between the geographical coordinates 39°-40° E and 6 °-7 ° N .The slopes of the southern escarpment falls rapidly in altitude from the tree line at 3200 to 2000m within a distance of only 8 km(BESMP2006:10)

### **3.3. Climate**

The climate of BMNP and the surrounding eco-regions are significantly governed by the two geographical features. These are the proximity to the equator and the high altitudes they have above sea level. Consequently, considerable changes in altitude resulted in great variations in climate (BMNP2007: Getu2010:18-19).

### 3.3.1. Rainfall

The rainfall experience of BMNP is highly influenced by the south-easterlies trade winds originating from Indian Ocean, the inter-tropical convergence, altitude and topography. The precipitation falls largely as rain and occasionally as snow or mist. The rainfall is characterized by an eight month rainy season from March to October followed by a four month dry season from November to February. Annual rainfall ranges between 600- 2000 mm depending on relief. Rainfall appears to increase with altitude until 3850m asl and after this level it begins to fall again (, Flintan, Fiona, etals2008:22-24, Getu 2011:19).

### 3.3.2. Temperature

The temperature from high lands indicates that the wet seasons are comparatively warm and the dry seasons are extremely cold at night and warm during the days. The daily temperature variation is higher than the seasonal. A minimum temperature of -15°C has been recorded on the Plateau (3850m) while a night-time minimum temperature of -3°C was found in the sparsely vegetated areas of the ericaceous belt. Whereas the average minimum and maximum range of temperature recorded were 0.7°C and 18.3°C(Ermias2001:17,: Flintan, Fiona, etals200822-24).

### 3.4. Vegetation

Bale Mountains National Park contains the largest part of Afro-alpine vegetation in Africa. The Haremma forest hosts a multitude of species-richness that increases from the low-altitude, open-canopy dry forest at 1,500m to the very moist, often cloud/mist-covered forest at and above 2,400 m. At the higher altitudes the trees support a high density of epiphytes and woody climbers and, as the canopy is not very dense, a rich herb layer is present. *Juniperus procera* forest is found in the northern parts of the park and also on the east around and above Goba. Around Goba there are also patches of *Olea europaea cuspidata*. The tree-heathers *Erica arborea* and *Erica trimera* form a forest (up to 8 m tall) that replaces *Juniperus procera* at c.3,200 m. This vegetation continues up to the Afro-alpine moorland at 3,800 m. The Afro-alpine moorland in this park is extremely rich in endemic plants, with predictions of 30% highly plausible. The most striking plants are the giant *Lobelia spp* and cushions of everlasting flowers *Helichrysum spp.*, particularly *Helichrysum citrispinum* and *Helichrysum splendidum*. A shrubby lady's mantle

*Alchemilla haumannii* that is endemic to the mountains in southern Ethiopia is also present (Schmitt2007:12,Getu2010:17).

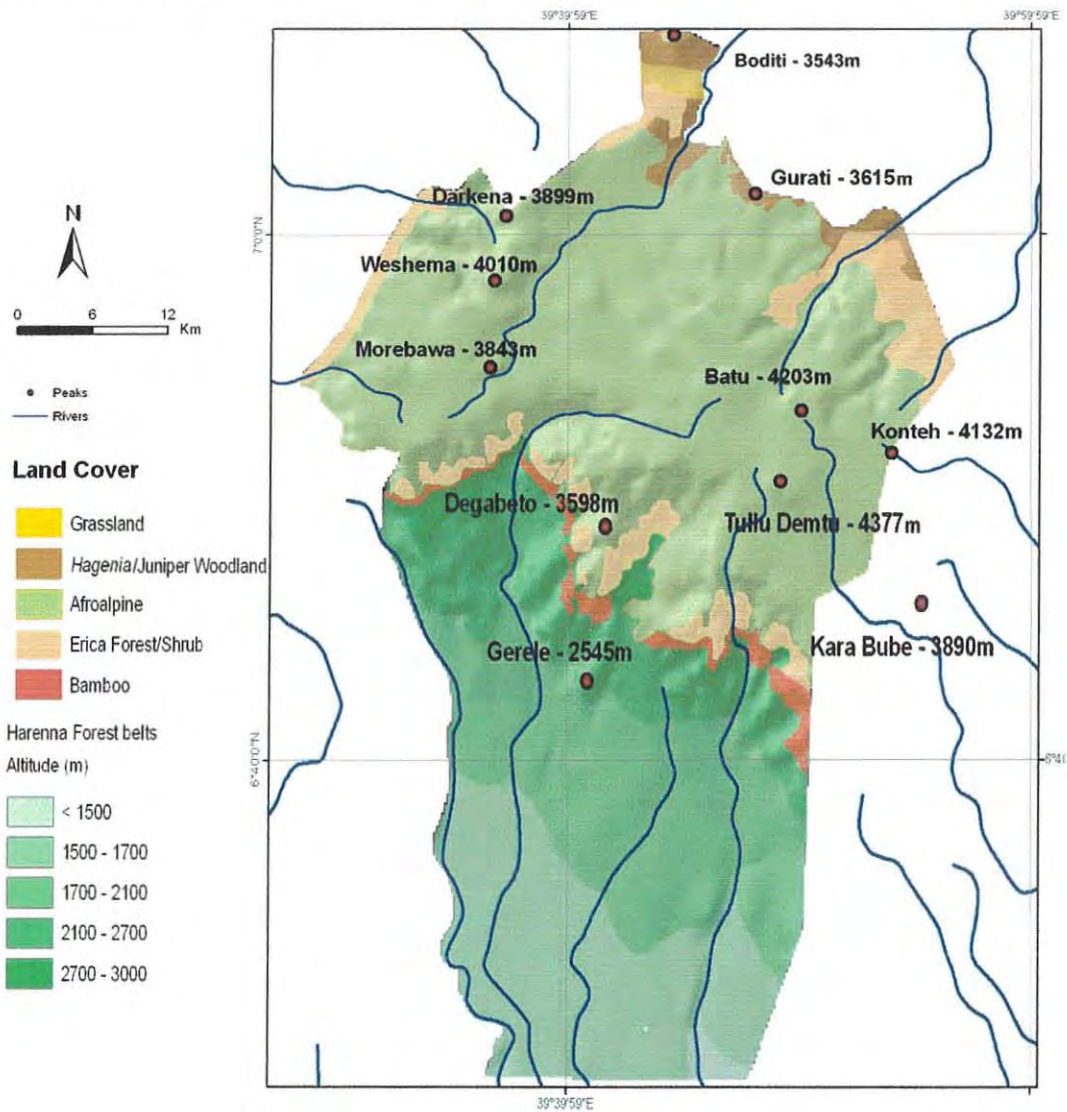


Figure 3. Vegetation map of the Bale Mountains National Park: Adopted from GMP2007:21

### **3.5. Human Settlement**

Human settlement and cultivation inside BMNP has been scoring an increasing trend since the establishment of the park. Actually there were people who lived and used the area before its establishment. But by the year 1986 the residents inside the park were estimated to be 2550. Three areas were settled particularly by the pastoralists. These include the Upper Web Valley, the Western boundary and the Hareenna escarpment. However, the past 20 years have witnessed the alarming growth of human settlement. The overthrow of the military government and the creation of management vacuum have brought the increment of population settlement in the park. As a result the settlement was estimated to be grown to over 40,000 in 2003 representing a 16 fold increase in the 20 years. All areas of the park have begun to afford significant settlers including the remote and inhospitable afro-alpine and Hareenna forest. In 2003, as cited in BMNP(2007) 71 permanent and seasonal settlements were recorded in the park in six main areas, namely Gojera, Rira, Wege, Hareenna, Ayida, Gama Taja, and Meskel-Haricho. Settlements in the afro-alpine areas of Web Valley, the Central Peaks and Sanetti are mainly used as bases for cattle husbandry by seasonal agro-pastoralists. In the Hareenna forest, Gojera and other areas on the park boundary, land has been cleared for agriculture, principally barley and garlic production ;and recent data suggest that clearing rates are increasing rapid in the Hareenna forest(GMP 2007:62).The following figure adopted from BMNP, 2007, unpublished data shows that the population have greatly increased in BMNP.

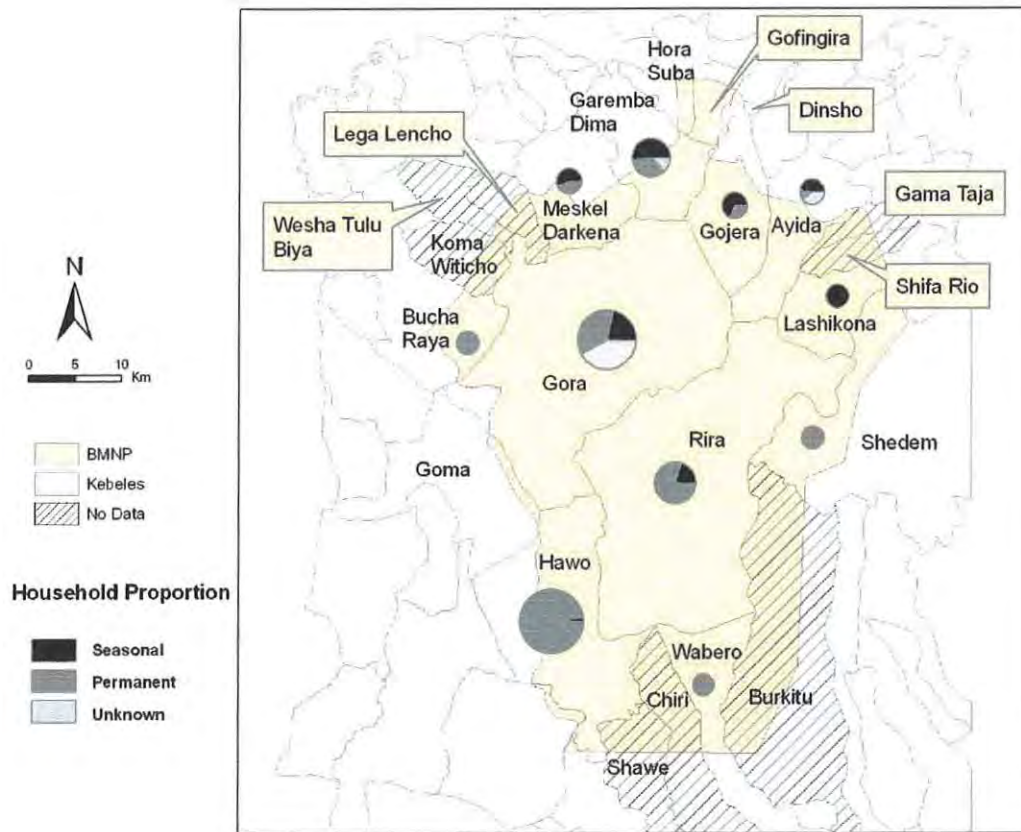


Figure4. Human Settlement in BMNP: Adopted from GMP2007:6

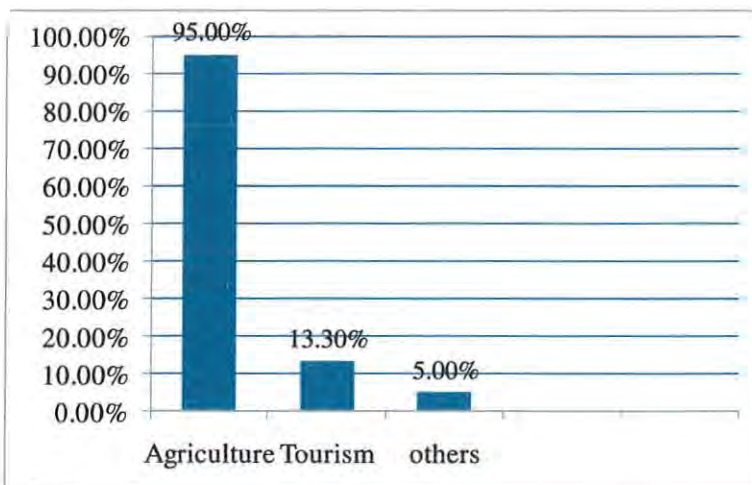
### 3.6 The Economic Basis of the Local Communities

As strongly underlined by Geremew, Jarso, Mesubha and Zarayoo, people living in Bale Eco-region (BER) are inextricably dependent on the natural resources of the park to sustain their livelihood needs. Agriculture (crop production and livestock rearing) being the main economic basis of the local communities is highly dependent on the ecosystem services obtained from the forests and wooded vegetation of the region. The forests and natural areas provide both fertile cropland when converted and other wise used as natural rangeland for livestock grazing. As agro-pastoral community, keeping many heads of livestock is considered as indicator of wealth. Forests and natural grasslands in the BER are the major sources of fodder that sustain the animal

production of the community for millennia. As cited in GMP of 2007, the natural resources in general and the forests in particular are the basis of local livelihoods. In general, for the local communities of BER, forests are everything and when expressing the inter-link between the forest and their livelihoods they use the proverb of '*fish & water:-as much fish cannot live without water so do we without forest*'. Yet, forests and their ecosystems are fast degrading in the BER. At the expenses of forest lands, croplands are expanding, particularly over the last few decades.

The result obtained from field survey strongly support the information gathered by in-depth interviews. The result indicates that the local communities are exhaustively depending on agriculture which in turn determined by the natural resource potentials of the eco-region. As clearly observed from the graph out of 60 sample local population, 57(95%) have claimed that their main economic activity is agriculture. The responses obtained from sample stakeholders have strongly substantiated the following graph indicating agriculture as the main stay of the local communities. The responses from the stakeholders are solely indicating 18 (100%) response rate strongly considering agriculture as the main economic basis of the local communities. This idea is further strengthened by the economic profile data obtained from Bale Zone too.

**Figure 5. The Main Economic Activities of the Local Communities**



Source: Field Survey2011

As observed from figure 6, the local communities are exclusively depending on agriculture; farming and livestock production. But, though not stand out independently, tourism has a significant share as an economic basis of the local communities. The graph also reveals that the local communities have still observed depending on the natural resource values of BMNP. This reality contravenes the assumption behind ecotourism development. Ecotourism, though not considered curing all ills induced to the local communities and natural resources, it has been claimed to curb the serious economic and environmental problems indebted to parks and protected areas. But ecotourism development in BMNP is not in charge of such responsibility. As strongly argued by Geremew, Zarayoo, Hajji and Jarso, ecotourism development in BMNP has barely provided alternatives to more traditional land uses such as logging and agriculture and not yet proved to provide an imputes for an economic alternatives for the local communities. It has not been considered as independent economic basis instead emerged as supplementary to agriculture.

On the other hand 8 (13.3%) of the local communities depend on tourism as the main stay whereby agriculture and others emerged to be supplementary to tourism. Hence, the local communities of BMNP lead an agrarian economy and tourism emerged to be supplementary to agriculture.

### **3.7. Ecotourism Potentials of BMNP**

BMNP is endowed with exceptional resource values of lucrative ecotourism potentials. These resources provide outstanding social, economic and aesthetic benefits to the local, national and international communities. Based on the typology of the GMP Planning Team, these resources are categorized into natural, scenic, social and cultural.

#### **3.7.1. Natural Resources**

##### **3.7.1.1. Endemic and Flagship Species**

BMNP is the home of endemic and flagship species. It hosts the Ethiopian Wolves (*Canis simensis*), Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*), Bale Monkeys, Giant Mole Rat (*Tachyoryctes macrophalus*), Menelik's Bushbuck, Rodents and spectacular birds such as Lammergeyers (*Gypaetus barbatus*), Thick-billed Raven (*Corvus crassitoris*), Abyssinian Lovebirds (*Agapornis*), and endemic flowering plants. These endemic and flagship species provide outstanding social,

economic and aesthetic importance for the local, national and international stakeholders (Gozalbez and Cerbian2002:94-95, GMP2007:19).

### **3.7.1.2. Hydrological System**

The mountains chains of Bale are the source of more than 40 rivers contributing to five major rivers. These include the Web, Wabe Shebelle, Welmel, Dumal and Ganale and numerous swampy areas and small shallow lakes. As a result the hydrological cycle of BMNP serve as a source of water for more than 12 million of people in Ethiopia and Somalia. Besides ,the mountain chains play a paramount role in controlling climate of the region, and attracting large amounts of Orographic rainfall (GMP 2007:18).

### **3.7.1.3. Hareenna Forest**

The Hareenna forest is the largest moist tropical forest remaining in Ethiopia. It is estimated to cover the largest part of BMNP .This forest consists of various genetic stocks. Endemic and threatened species such as *Prunus africanus*, lions, endangered African wild dogs and giant forest hogs are found in this moist ecological zone. However, the floral and faunal composition of the forest is poorly documented (Gozalbez and Cerbian2002:94-95, GMP 2007:19)

### **3.7.1.4. Afroalpine Habitat**

The plateaus and slopes of the Bale Mountains cover 17% of the afro-alpine habitat in Africa. Many of the Ethiopian endemic species are found in this habitat type. This ecological zone supports plants like *Lobelia* spp, animals such as the Ethiopian Wolf, the Giant Mole rat and Rodents ( Gozalbez and Cerbian2002:94-95, GMP 2007:21).

### **3.7.1.5 .Distinctive Altitudinal Vegetation Zones**

BMNP has distinctive vegetation zones depending on the altitude. As the altitude decreases from the afro-alpine plateau of 4000masl to the park boundary at 1500m, with just 60 km separating the Combretum/*Terminalia* dry wooded grasslands and the afro-alpine highlands. At the higher altitudes, giant heather stands of *Erica* form a unique habitat, whereas bamboo provides an important resource across large areas. *Hagenia* trees are common on the upper slope, although *Juniperus* is absent. Below 2200 m larger tree species such as *Podocarpus falcatus* appear (GMP2007:20, OBF2009:50).

Table2. Sex, Age and Educational backgrounds of the sample population.

		Count	Percent
Sex	Male	65	75.58
	Female	21	24.4
	Total	86	100
Age	<16	1	1.16
	17-25	35	40.70
	26-36	34	39.53
	>36	16	18.60
	Total	86	100
Educational Background	Illiterate	31	36.04
	1-6	16	18.60
	7-10	13	15.11
	11-12	1	1.16
	Vocational Training	3	3.5
	BA/BSC	19	22.1
	MA/MA and above	3	3.5
	Total	86	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

As demonstrated from the survey result, in terms of educational background, 31(36.04%) have not attended formal education, 16(18.6%) have completed from grade (1-6), 13(15.11%) have attended from grade 7-10. Those sample population who have attended their tertiary education are amounted to 25 (29%). Tourism in general and ecotourism activities in particular pertain to be affected by the level of awareness of those who have involved in its developmental aspects. In this case the sample population seems to be representatives of different population categories of different educational backgrounds.

#### 4.1.2. Marital Status and Occupation

As observed from table3 below, the marital status of the sample population indicates that 38(63.3%) are married, 21(35%) are single and 1(1.7%) have been living in broken families. Hence, the numbers of single and married respondent are amounting to 98.3% of the total sample population.

Table3. Marital status and Occupation of the Respondents

	Count	Percent
<b>Marital Status(Local Communities)</b>	Married	38 63.3
	Single	21 35.0
	Divorced	1 1.7
	Widowed	0 0
	Total	60 100
<b>Occupation</b>	Agriculture	57 66.3
	Tourism Related	19 22.1
	Conservationist	1 1.16
	Academics	5 5.8
	Government Employee	2 2.32
	Others	2 2.32
	Total	86 100

Source: Field Survey 2011

With respect to occupation, as shown on table3 ,57(66.3%) of the sample population have engaged in agriculture and 19(22.1%) in tourism related activities (these activities include heading Culture and Tourism Offices of the Weredas and Tourism related expertise of the

sample Wereda and the head quarter ;and those who directly earn their livelihoods from tourism activities of BMNP.),1(1.16%) conservationist from FZS, 5(5.8%) from academics ,2(2.32%) from Small Scale Micro Enterprise Office and the rest 2(2.32%) are from other occupations. Most likely the sample population is assumed to be inclusive of all categories of occupation.

#### 4.2. Ecotourism Activities Common to BMNP

Ecotourism activities common to BMNP are depending on the natural setting of the park as of mountain trekking and sightseeing, enhanced by natural wealth of the park as camping and wildlife watching; and based on the incidental natural setting as of experiencing different ecological zones with multiple species of endemic plants and animals. It is seldom uncertain to judge whether these activities are extractive use of the natural wealth of the park or not. It has been reported that ecotourism have increased the economic importance of wildlife and environmental resources. As the field survey result indicated in tables4 and 5, ecotourism development in BMNP is not harnessing the environmental wealth of the park instead improved conservation efforts and as a result opted to minimize the degradation of the natural resources of the park. This notion is hereby clearly indicated in table4 and 5.

Table 4.Ecotourism development in BMNP minimizes the degradation of resources (Stakeholders' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
Undecided	1	5.6
Agree	9	50.0
Disagree	4	22.2
Strongly Agree	2	11.1
Strongly Disagree	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

It seems that ecotourism has been established based on the optimum use of the resources of the park as clearly illustrated in table 5. But the idea seems to contradict the real situation significantly observed in BMNP. On one hand if ecotourism is established based on the optimum use of the resources of the park, this assumption tends to purport that there is a well established ecotourism activities. Nevertheless, neither conventional nor ecotourism has realized as the problem resulting

in the depletion of the resource values of the park. Rather it is lack of alternative livelihoods that have induced the local communities to depend on unsustainable use of the resources of the park.

Table 5. Ecotourism development is based on optimum use of natural resources of the park (Stakeholders' Responses).

Response	Count	Percent	
No- response	1	5.6	As indicated in table 4 and 5, ecotourism development in BMNP seem to have been established in harmony with the environmental resources. But, even those commonly practiced as identified from field survey seem extractive and consumptive in character. For example trophy hunting and sport fishing are consumptive and extractive use activities that antagonize the basic principles of ecotourism development. Whatever the fact may be the following are among the common ecotourism practices frequent in BMNP.
Agree	8	44.4	
Disagree	4	22.2	
Undecided	2	11.1	
Strongly Agree	2	11.1	
Strongly Disagree	1	5.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

Source: Field survey 2011

#### 4.2.1. Trophy Hunting

Mulugeta, Demamu, Mengistie and Degnet argued that trophy hunting has emerged as a potential to generate substantial amounts of revenue for conservation and to improve the livelihoods of the local communities (Mulugeta, et al 2009:28). Nevertheless, the empirical evidences obtained from the stakeholders and local communities responses' contented the above notion and enable us to deduce the conclusion that trophy hunting is not frequently practiced within the park boundary. The information obtained from Anouska clearly justifies and strengthens the rare existence of trophy hunting. The field report result shown on the following tables explicitly substantiates this fact.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Data Presentation and Analysis

#### 4.1. General Characteristics of Sample Population

This section focuses on the presentation and analysis of the basic characteristics of sample population. These include the principal demographic variables such as, occupation and marital status.

##### 4.1.1. Age, Sex and Education

The distribution of age, sex and educational backgrounds of the sample population are hereby presented in table 2. The household number of the study population is at about 2055. The sample size has been determined to be 95; of which the sample size has achieved 86 (90.52%) response rate. The sample size constitutes 65(75.58%) and 21(24.4%) males and females respectively. Whereas when we look into the age distribution of the sample population, the majority of the respondents' age is between 16-36 which accounts to 81.4%. The smallest number recorded in sample survey is those whose age is below 16; 1(1.16%). Those sample population whose age is above 36 are amounted to 18.60%. The sex and age distribution described in table 2 revealed that the majority of the respondents are male. Their age distribution ranges from 16-36. This age category is productive and highly demands an employment opportunities. In this regard, tourism is claimed to be labor intensive. Hence, the information obtained from this group of sample population possibly helps to produce a reliable and dependable conclusion.

### **3.7.1.6. Rodent Community**

The rodent communities are among the most important afro-alpine ecological species in BMNP. BMNP hosts 47 mammalian species of which 32% of such species are rodents that mainly known as the natural grazers of the afro-alpine areas. The impressive giant Mole Rat is apparently endemic to the Bale Mountains. In fact endemic Rodents are found throughout BMNP (GMP2007:20, OBF2009:50).

### **3.7.1.7. Migratory and Endemic Birds**

BMNP harbors 57% of the Ethiopia's endemic birds. As such Rouget's rail, Spot-breasted plover, Blue-winged goose, the Black headed Siskin and White-backed and Black tit are among the most important birds known to BMNP. The area, with its abundant rodent community, is also very important for many internationally rare large eagles, vultures and other raptors. It serves as a breeding site for a number of Eurasian species, such as the golden eagle, the ruddy shell duck, choughs and the wattle crane. In addition, the park is an important passage station for migratory birds from Eurasia, particularly passerines and waterfowl (GMP2007:21).

### **3.7.1.8. Gaysay Grasslands and Antelopes**

Gaysay grasslands, though small in size, plain and swampy, spectacularly it is the home of mountain Nyala and other antelope species such as Menelik's Bushbuck, Reedbuck and the Grey Duiker (Getu2010:19).

### **3.7.1.9. Genetic Stocks of Wild Plants**

The forests and grasslands of the Bale Mountains are endowed with various stocks of wild genetic materials such as wild coffee (*Coffea Arabica*) and medicinal plants. The area is an amassed place for genetic stocks of wild coffee and medicinal plants in Ethiopia. Up to date three medicinal plant hotspots have been identified. Two of them have been identified in the Gaysay ecological zone whereas one is found in the Angesu area, spanning the park boundary (GMP2007:21, OBF 2009:56).

### **3.7.2. Scenic Features**

#### **3.7.2.1. Mountain Peaks, Plateau and Lava Flow**

The highest peaks of Tullu Dimtuu along with Batu, Worgona, Wasema, Archaah and Adola, forms scenically impressive land marks .The Garamba Dima peaks in the Western part of the park offer a spectacular site. The afro alpine area, though hostile in climate is an impressive attractions site for visitors. The lava flows of West of Sennatti plateau and broken rocky area of relatively recent lava are among the most important scenically attractive places of BMN (BESMP2008: 21).



Figure6. Partial views of Scenery of BMNP

#### **3.7.2.2. Alpine Lakes and Mountain Streams**

The alpine lakes and mountain streams cut gorges across the plateau and form waterfalls are attractive scenic feature in their own right. These lakes and rivers provide vital habitat and ecosystem services for endemic species. These scenic features potentially draw bird watchers and other nature tourists (GMP2007: 21,).

### **3.7.2.3. Hareenna Escarpment**

The Hareenna, besides its composition of genetic stocks, the escarpment falling away rapidly from the southern edge of the mountains and Sanetti plateau forms important scenic resources of the park. The cliffs of the escarpment offer impressive views to the south if not covered by cloud or mist (GMP2007:23, BESMP 2008:16).

### **3.7.3. The Social Importance of the Resources BMNP**

#### **3.7.3.1. Water Catchments**

Bale Mountains are the source of water for five major rivers (the Wabe-Shebelle, Web, Welmel, Ganale, and Dumal) on which an estimated 12 million people establish their livelihoods. To this end, the livelihoods and food security of the people of arid and semi arid areas of south-eastern and southern Ethiopia and Somalia are highly dependent on the water catchment of Bale mountains. Thus, BMNP plays a paramount role in offering social values for the local people of Bale Eco-region (GMP2007:23, BESMP 2008:16).

#### **3.7.3.2. Environmental Goods and Services**

BMNP and its environs provide a wide range of environmental goods and services for the local, national and international communities. The park and its resources are the livelihood bases for the local communities. For example, BMNP provides fodders and water for livestock herds. The local communities extract honey and forest coffee and a variety of non-timber forest products. It harbors a number of medicinal plants. Moreover, BMNP is the source of two rivers offering hydroelectric schemes: the Melka Wakana scheme on the Wabe Shebelle and the Yato mini-scheme on the Yadot River. These rivers produced hydroelectricity supplies for the towns of Dodola, Adaba, Dinsho, Robe, Agarfa, Ali, and Goba, and Dola Mena respectively. The park is also an important place to witness how climate changes affect the afroalpine areas over the forthcoming decades (BESMP 2008:9).

#### **3.7.3.3. Coffee**

Bale Mountains including BMNP are the prime places where forest Coffee (Arabica) is harvested. Actually coffee plays a vital social and economic role in Ethiopia and is often taken as the mark of the national identity. Wild coffee provides a significant income for the local

communities. It is also extremely important source of foreign currency. However increasing forest and semi-forest coffee management needs to be managed to ensure that biodiversity in the forest is not adversely affected (GMP2007:23).

### **3.7.4. Cultural Resources**

#### **3.7.4.1. Traditional Transhumance System (Godantu)**

The transhumance system of Oromo pastoralists is known as the Godantu system and it is a key feature of traditional human use of the Bale Mountains. In this system the pastoralists send their cattle to higher grazing grounds when crops are growing in lower altitude areas or into the forest for shade during the dry season. The traditional transhumance system is not a forceful movement of cattle due to loss of grazing (OBf2009:63,GMP2007: 24).

#### **3.7.4.2. Cultural Sites**

Though not well documented, BMNP has a number of cultural sites of religious and ritual values. The most common one include Abel Kassim, Alija and Gassuray. Some of these areas are still used by local communities for religious and ritual practices (OBf2009:63,GMP2007: 24).

### **3.7.5. The International Significance of BMNP**

#### **3.7.5.1. Biodiversity Hotspot**

BMNP as cited in the GMP (2007) is the most important International Conservation Hotspots in the Ethiopian Highlands. Its incorporation into the International Conservation Hotspots Listing mainly arises from two criteria. The first is the outstanding universal value the park offers for the human being and its incorporation of pockets of threatened biodiversity resources. The second reason is that 97% of the natural vegetation of Ethiopian Highlands estimated to have been already lost. BMNP is an important area to conserve the remnants of unique biodiversity resources ( GMP2007:23,OBf 2009:56)).

#### **3.7.5.2. BMNP as a World Heritage Site**

The outstanding universal values it has to humanity, the on-going biological and ecological processes, endemic flora and fauna it hosts; and the exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic

importance, BMNP is inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Being listed as World Heritage Site helps the park to:

- Enhance its global, regional and national importance.
- Raise the international image of the area and so that biodiversity conservation and associated poverty alleviation will be supported.
- Raise effective funds for park management and development, both directly from UNESCO and the UN Foundation and multilateral agencies.
- Provide valuable marketing tool by raising the tourism profile of the area.

### **3.7.5.3. Biosphere Reserve**

As clearly stated in GMP (2007) attempts have been done to list BMNP under UNESCO'S Man and the Biosphere Reserve as a Biosphere Reserve. Biosphere reserves have three inter connected functions. These are biodiversity conservation, economic and human development and logistic support for research, monitoring, environmental education and training. Bale Ecosystem, encompassing the National Park, with surrounding areas of National Priority Forest Area is the qualified as a Biosphere Reserve.

Biosphere Reserve Listing would assist BMNP by:

- Providing a framework to guide and reinforce projects to enhance people's livelihoods and ensure environmental sustainability.
- Raising awareness locally and nationally of both citizens and government
- assisting in fundraising from different sources
- Serving as a pilot site to explore the Ecosystem Management Approach for sustainable conservation and development Listing the Bale Mountains as a Biosphere Reserve will be explored in conjunction with the Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) and the Bale Eco-region Sustainable Management Project(BESMP), under actions in the Outreach Program (GMP2007:24).

Table 6. Is trophy hunting common to BMNP? (Stakeholders' and Local communities' Responses).

	Response	Count	Percent
Local communities	No	54	90
	Yes	6	10
	Total	60	100
Stakeholders	No	16	88.9
	Yes	2	11.1
	Total	18	100
Responses from both	No	60	76.92
	Yes	18	23.08
	Total	78	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

As observed from table 6, 54(90%) of the local communities and 16(88.9%) of the stakeholders involved as sample population have insisted the prevalence of trophy hunting. Therefore, trophy hunting is not common to BMNP.

#### 4.2.2 Sport Fishing

The empirical evidences have revealed that rivers originated from the mountain chains of Bale proved to have a great potentials of fish though hardly tapped. Nevertheless, it is only in Shaya (Sinana) and Bedemo (Sinana) rivers that magnificent amounts of fishing activities have taken place. The following table can be clearly strengthening the above idea.

Table7. Is Sport fishing frequently practiced in BMNP? (Stakeholders' and Local communities' Responses).

	Response	Count	Percent
Local Communities	No	46	76.7
	Yes	14	23.3
	Total	60	100
Stakeholders	No	13	72.2
	Yes	5	22.8
	Total	18	100
Responses from both	No	59	75.6
	Yes	19	24.4
	Total	78	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

The field survey result observed from the table 7 shows that 59(75.5%) of the respondents have insisted the frequent existence of sport fishing in BMNP. Therefore, sport fishing is not taken as ecotourism activities common to BMNP.

#### 4.2.3 Mountain Trekking

Mountain chains of Bale have created impressive scenic values for tourists to take part in mountain trekking and wildlife watching. The chains of Sennati, Gasay and Mountain climbing across the Garemba Dima escarpments are pertinent to show how far mountain trekking come to be the common ecotourism activities in BMN (Kebede 2007:6). This idea is further underpinned by the result obtained from field survey indicated in table 8.

Table8. Is mountain trekking common to BMNP? (Local communities' Responses).

Response	Count	Percent
No –response	2	3.3
	1	1.7
No	57	95.0
Yes	60	100.0
Total		

Source: Field Survey 2011

It is justifiable to conclude that mountain trekking is among the most frequent ecotourism practices common to BMNP. Mountain trekking and associated practices have remained the most frequent activities ecotourists enjoy in BMNP.

#### 4.2.4. The Participatory Forest Management

Though Gebremedhin and Mulugeta purport to insight the prevalence of participatory forest management, the approach is not universally applicable all over the Weredas BMNP lies over .In fact it is undeniable to find participatory forest management as a conservation tool by fueling the economic activities of forest dwellers. The findings from the field survey highly strengthened this fact as indicated in table 9.

Table9. Is participatory forest management common to BMNP? (Stakeholders' and Local communities' Responses).

	Response	Count	Percent
Local communities	No response	5	8.3
	No	1	1.7
	Yes	54	90
	Total	60	100
Stakeholders	No	7	38.9
	Yes	11	61.1
	Total	18	100
Responses from both	No	8	10.25
	Yes	65	83.3
	Total	73	93.58

Source: Field survey 2011

The result obtained from field survey indicated in table 9 assure to deduce the conclusion that local communities participate in protecting and preserving the forest values of BMNP if reinforced by economic need.

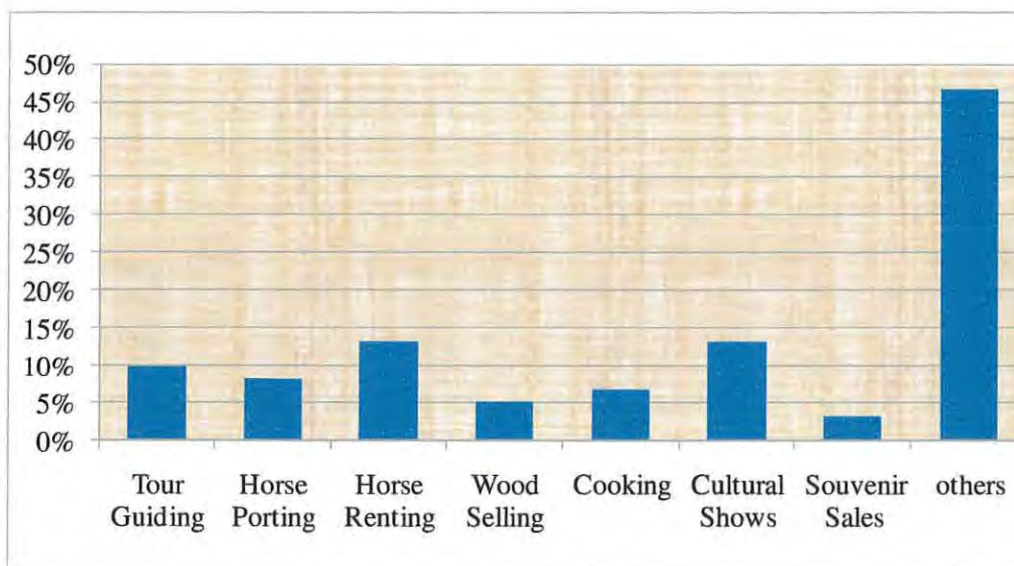
### 4.3 Ecotourism Practices Local Communities Participate

Though endowed with a multitude of exceptional resource values, ecotourism practices and developments in BMNP have scoring a tang tide stance. As stated by the Park Warden and tourism expert of the park, it is hard to say about the role of local communities in effectuating ecotourism practices. Consequently, ecotourism practices in BMNP hardly meet the economic demands of the local communities. But there are areas where local communities' participation is not a merit rather it is of the prevailing obligatory conditions. Accordingly, Tour Guiding, Horse

Porting, Horse Renting, Wood Selling, Cooking, Cultural Shows and Souvenir Sales are among those ecotourism practices in which the local communities frequently participate.

As adopted from Dinisho Wereda Culture and Tourism Office and the Park's Head Quarter, the local communities are organized into six associations based on the services they are offering. These include Nyala Tour Guide Association, Qerrensa Horse Rental Association, Borfa Horse Portal Association, Keyi Kebro Cookers Association, Walin Jirana Wood Sellers Association and Barree Hand Crafts Association.

Figure7. Common Ecotourism Practices Local Communities Participate.



Source: Field Survey 2011

As observed from figure 7, 6(10%) of the sample population have participated in tour guiding, 5(8.30%) in horse porting, 8(13.3%) in horse renting, 8(13.3%) in cultural shows, 3(5%) in cooking, 2(3.3%) in wood selling and 28(46.6%) in other activities.

#### **4.4. The Environmental, Economic and Social Implications of Ecotourism Development in BMNP**

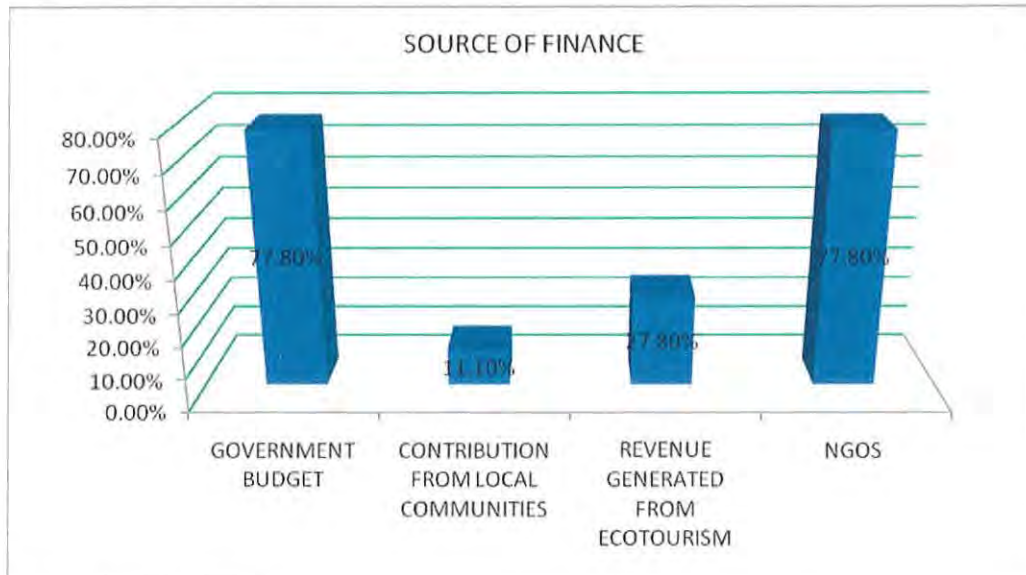
##### **4.4.1. Maintenance of Biodiversity Resources**

BMNP is relatively located in pristine, exotic and remote area. Hence, there present a mix of opportunities and threats to the resource values of the park. If the opportunities are exploited, the natural wealth of the park becomes an economic bonanza and panacea for the protection of the natural resource values. In this regard ecotourism is believed to increase opportunities and reduce threats. But there are no automatic benefits associated with ecotourism; success depends on good planning and management. Carelessly planned or poorly implemented ecotourism projects can easily become conventional tourism projects with all of the associated problems. The following discussions are mainly aimed to examine whether ecotourism development in BMNP aspires to ensure environmental sustainability or not.

##### **4.4.1.1. Revenue Generation for Conservation**

Consequent to the limitation of governmental funds available for the park administration, patrolling, tourism development, environmental protection and community development, there is a potential danger for the resource values of BMNP to survive without looking for new sources of finance. Ecotourism is proved to provide sound economic incentives to protect and preserve the natural wealth of the park. In this case while generating income, ecotourism is to increase the economic importance of wildlife and biodiversity. However, the survey result obtained indicates that BMNP has acquired its financial sources for conservation from government budget and donation from NGOs. Nonetheless, the contributions from local communities and revenue generated from ecotourism have hardly been realized while serving as a source of finance to conserve the environmental resources of the park. The following graph justifies this fact.

Figure8. Source of Finance



Source: Field Survey2011

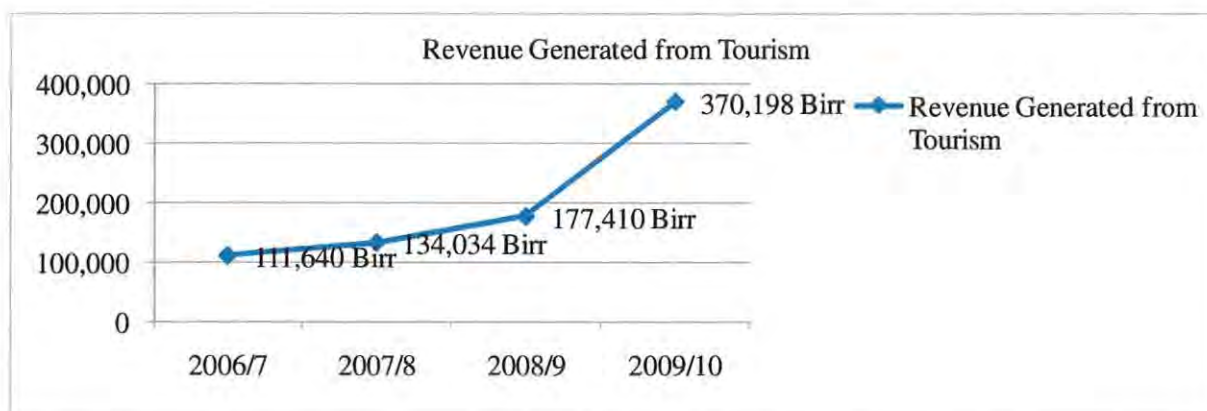
As observed from figure8 the park's natural resource conservation efforts are entirely dependent on the annual budget allocated by the government and contributions from NGOs. However, the finances provided by the government for the management and developments of BMNP are inadequate. Prior to 2004, the park received an annual operating budget of less than 100,000 ETB from the federal and regional treasury in order to run all patrolling, monitoring, environmental education, communities outreach, park development, maintenance, lodge management, tourist development and other park operations and administrative activities. Larger budgets are repeatedly asked, but even in 2006, when the park operational budget was 166,374 ETB, excluding salary costs, this was just 40% of that requested.

A global survey of protected area budgets and staffing level carried out by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in 1996 revealed that worldwide mean budgets for protected areas were \$893/km<sup>2</sup>, with a mean of \$257/km<sup>2</sup> in the Eastern Africa Region. The report suggested that \$526/km<sup>2</sup> were required in developing countries for effective management, although in 1988 another study put this figure at \$200-230/km<sup>2</sup>. Figures from Ethiopia were estimated at just \$5/km<sup>2</sup> in 1996, the third lowest for any country in the world. In 2006, the total budget for BMNP has been increased to some 303,000 Ethiopian Birr (34,500USD), including

salaries. Backtracking and assuming 5% annual increase since 1996, this would represent a value of around 186,000 ETB (\$21,189) in 1996. This figure is just 2% of that estimated to be required for effective management and, at \$9.6/km<sup>2</sup>, is also dramatically below the average both for developing countries and Eastern Africa. Securing sustainable financing for protected area management is now a key objective in the international conservation sector (BMP2007:93). This implies the conservation efforts are highly affected by the financial shortages. The conservation and protection efforts are strongly grounded and extended by the budget allocated by the government and donation from NGOs. The exhaustive dependence of finance for conservation on government budget and NGOs greatly undermines community development and natural resource conservation. Furthermore, as argued by Geremew ,Zarayoo and Anouska, it become dilemmatic to effectively conserve the natural resources of the park by attaching to the inflexible budget allocated from the government and unpredictable donations expected from NGOs. As Geremew strongly underlined the park's income in the form of user and penalty fees are higher than the budget allocated for conservation by the government. Nevertheless, such fees have not been observed while curbing the financial constraints associated with natural resource conservation and community development.

Of course the park's eco- products generate revenue in the form of user and penalty fees. As shown on figure 9 the income generated from tourism in the form of user fees have been scoring an increasing trend.

Figure9. Revenue Generated from Ecotourism

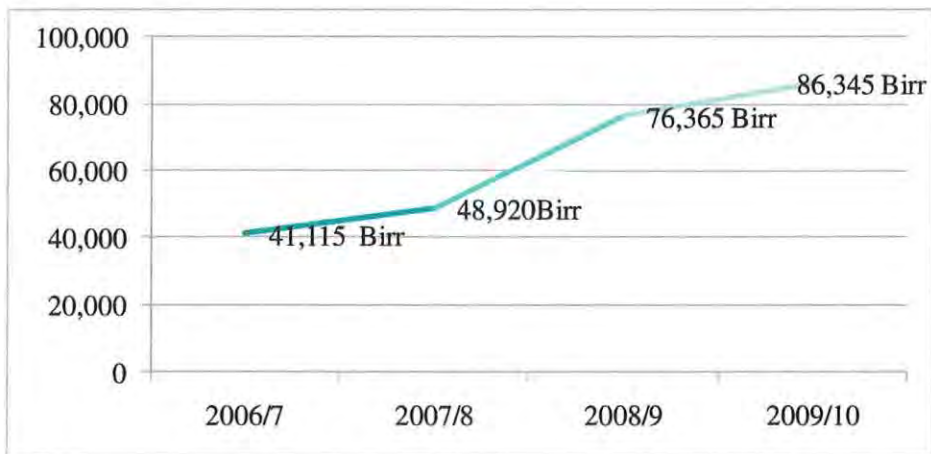


Source: BMNP unpublished source 2011

The revenue acquired from tourism has scored an increasing trend over the past four years as observed from the graph. The revenue generated from tourism was 111,640 Ethiopian Birr(ETB) in 2006/7 budget year. Whereas in 2009/10, the revenue generated has elevated to 370, 198 ETB showing an increment of above 300%. But still the park’s income depends on entrance fees which are too low to cover costs. Hence, income diversification mechanisms in the form of concession fees and sales and royalties have not magnificently been realized in BMNP.

On the other hand though not tourism related income directly, the park also generates revenue from penalty fees. These are fees levied on local communities while they are letting their cattle to park for fodder and pasture. The penalty fees are imposed on each cattle. Accordingly, the local communities are obliged to pay 10ETB and 5ETB per cattle and sheep/goat respectively. Penalty fees imposed up on the local people have been greatly increased over the past four years as shown on figure 10.

Figure10. Penalty Fees



Source: BMNP Unpublished Source, 2011

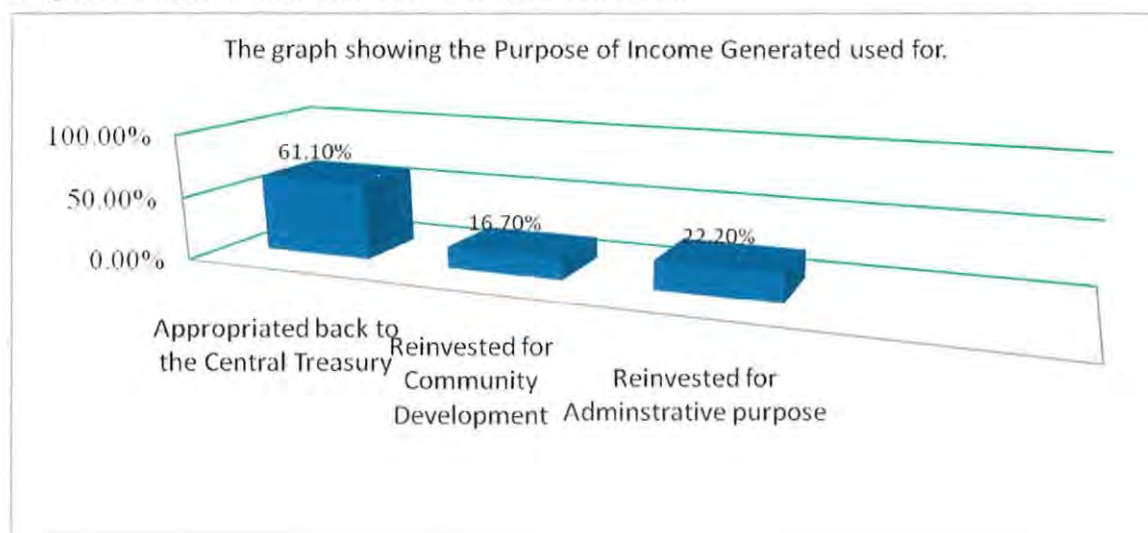
As explicitly observed from figure10 the revenue generated from penalty fees has shown an increasing trend from 2006/7-2009/10. The income acquired from penalty in2006/7 was 41,115 ETB .It has grown to 86,345ETB in 2009/10.The increment is nearly above 200%.



#### 4.4.1.2. The Purposes of Income Generated from Ecotourism

In its technical sense the revenue generated from ecotourism is to be used for natural resource conservation and community development. But in practice, it become futile to solve the baggage of local economic dependence on activities that exploit natural resources directly and damage the environmental resources of BMNP. More simply the revenue generated from ecotourism is expected to be reinvested for community development and natural resource conservation. However, the field survey result obtained from BMNP indicates that the income generated from ecotourism has hardly been reinvested for natural resource conservation and community development rather appropriated back to the central treasury. The graph shown below clearly indicates for what purposes the income generated from ecotourism used for.

Figure 11. Purposes of Income Generated from Ecotourism.



Source: Field Survey 2011

As the field survey result shows 61.10% of the respondents have insisted that the income generated from ecotourism have not been reinvested for natural resource conservation and community development rather appropriated back to the central treasury. 16.70% of them have contended the above conclusion and argued in favor of the reinvestment of the income for the enhancement of community development. Whereas 22.20% of the respondents' responses

indicate that the income is used for administrative purpose. This idea is further strengthened by the survey result observed from table 10.

Table10. The income generated from ecotourism used is for conservation (Local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No –response	1	1.7
Agree	9	15.0
Disagree	11	18.3
Undecided	7	11.7
Strongly Agree	15	25.0
Strongly Disagree	17	28.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

As to table 10, 28(46.6%) of the local communities have claimed that the income generated from ecotourism has not used to support conservation efforts. Whereas 24(40%) of the local communities' contended the first conclusion and have claimed as if the income generated from ecotourism is used for conservation. Based on the results shown on figure11, table10 and 11, it is high to say that the income generated from ecotourism is not directly used for conservation and community development rather appropriated back to the central treasury. This seems to contradict the general principles of ecotourism development.

Therefore, the income generated from ecotourism has not yet been capitalized to conserve the natural resources of the park. Nevertheless, this does not imply to mean all the income generated from ecotourism are appropriated back to the central treasury rather those which have receipt and collected by the park's personnel are appropriated back to the central treasury. Whereas the income the local communities earn by offering services for the tourists is directly go to the pockets of the local communities. It is this income that is used to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Hence, if not at its utmost, it is possible to ascertain that the income

generated from ecotourism is used to improve the livelihoods of the local communities as indicated in table 11. 35(58.3%) of the local communities' responses underpinned that the income generated from ecotourism is used to improve the quality of the lives of the local communities.

Table 11. The income generated from ecotourism is used to improve the local's livelihoods (Local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No –response	3	5.0
Agree	21	35.0
Disagree	9	15.0
Undecided	2	3.3
Strongly Agree	14	23.3
Strongly Disagree	11	18.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Filed survey 2011

Table 11 Shows that the income generated from ecotourism is used to improve the livelihoods of the local communities. Of course it becomes the direct economic incentives for local tour guides, horse renters, horse porters, craftsmen and cooks. But the information extracted from the participants of FGD (Focus Group Discussion) held at Gofengira contests the above idea. FGD member "x" (he was not okay to mention his name and therefore coded as "x") stressed that let alone enjoying a direct economic advantages from ecotourism activities of the park, the local communities have not yet compensated while their crops have been destroyed by Nyala, Menelik bush buck and Worth dog. He further argued that, if the local communities have penalized for their cattle being entered into the park whose boundary is uncertain; the local communities have to be compensated for loss of their crops. The information obtained from FGD held at Gofengira has two fundamental implications. Firstly, the economic benefits the local communities enjoy seem to be unfair and centralized into the hands of few elites. Secondly, the local communities' economic rights are still rarely considered. The local communities are still in trauma because biodiversity conservation seems to substitute the sociological interests.

Whatever arguments arise from the results obtained from field survey and FGD, conservation efforts of the natural resource values of BMNP are still embedded within financial shortfalls.

#### 4.4.1.3. Creating Environmental Awareness

Ecotourism development in BMNP has improved the environmental ethos and fostered the conservation efforts of the local residents living in and around the park. It has inspired local residents' interests and willingness to protect their areas and change their patterns of resource use. It has enhanced the awareness level of local communities to learn more about conservation and modify their daily habits. Hence, though not utmost, ecotourism development has increased the inspiration and interest of the local communities to protect and preserve the natural wealth of BMNP. The FGD held at Gojera clearly shows that even those who are not enjoying direct economic benefits from ecotourism; have not remained indifferent in protecting and preserving the natural wealth of the park. As indicated in table 12 ecotourism development has improved the conservation efforts of the local communities individually and collectively.

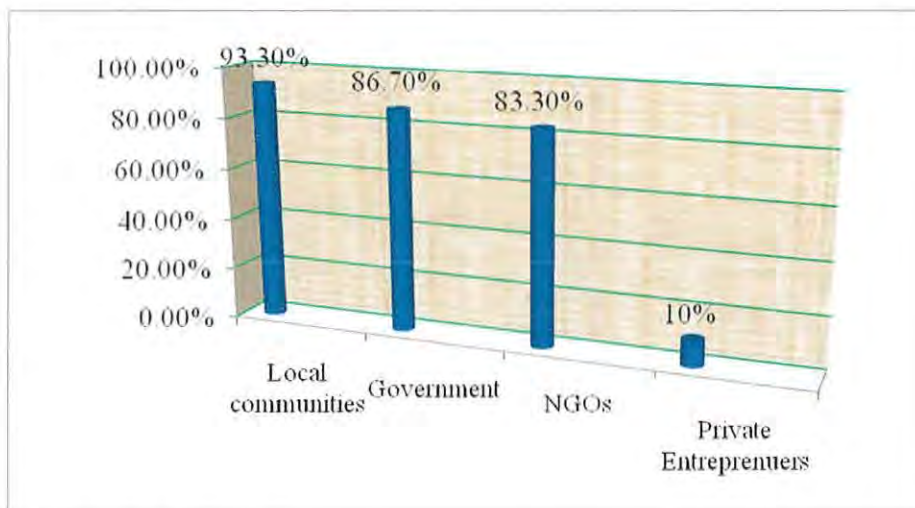
Table 12. Ecotourism development has improved conservation efforts (Stakeholders' and Local communities' Responses).

	Responses	Count	Percent
Local Respondents	No –response	3	5.0
	Agree	25	41.7
	Strongly Agree	18	30
	Undecided	3	5.0
	Disagree	8	13.3
	Strongly Disagree	3	5.0
	Total	60	100
	Agree	8	44.4
Stakeholders	Strongly Agree	2	11.1
	Undecided	1	5.6
	Disagree	5	27.8
	Strongly Disagree	2	11.1
	Total	18	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

The figures shown on table 12 reveal that ecotourism development in BMNP has improved the habit of the local communities to protect and preserve the natural wealth of the park. The local communities' role in protecting and preserving the resource values of BMNP have significantly observed as shown figure11. Thus, the local communities are among the main stakeholders engaged in protecting and conserving the natural wealth of the park. The in-depth interview held with Hajii clearly depicts the survival of the resource values of park is greatly determined by the role of the communities in planning, developing and managing any sorts of projects. He cited his fear that the re-demarcation proposal of the park boundary may attribute to the great threat to the resource values of the park unless inclusive of the interests of the local communities. He further purports though, not at its maximum potential, ecotourism development in BMNP has improved the habit of the local communities to unsustainably depend on the natural wealth of the park. In fact conservation efforts of the natural resources of BMNP have attracted number partners. Some of them are vividly shown on figure 12.

Figure12. Partners Participate in Conservation and Protection of the Resource Values of BMNP (Local communities' Responses).



Source: Field Survey 2011

Figure12 reveals that the exceptional resource values of BMNP is protected and preserved by the local communities acquiring 56(93.3%) of local communities' responses and 15(83.3%) stakeholders' responses; by government acquiring 52(86.7%) of locals' responses and 16(88.9%) responses from stakeholders'. NGOs and private entrepreneurs have been identified in protecting

the natural wealth of the park. Accordingly, 56(93.3%) responses of local people and 14(77.8%) stakeholders' responses help to produce the conclusion that at its strongest stance the local communities, government and NGOs are identified to protect and preserve the exceptional resource values of BMNP. It is high to say that the local communities freely participate in protecting and preserving the resource values of the park. The table shown below vividly strengthens this fact.

Table13. Do the local Communities participate in conserving the sources based on their own will? (Local communities' Responses)

Response	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	35	58.3
Disagree	3	5.0
Undecided	2	3.3
Strongly Agree	17	28.3
Strongly Disagree	1	1.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

As observed from the table13, nearly 86.6 %( 52) of the local communities claimed that they have participated in conserving and protecting the natural resources of the park based on their own free will.

As to Zarayoo and Hajii, the local communities' exclusion and the mere consideration of their interests and voices resulted in the immediate inhabitation of Gojera following the overthrow of the military government in 1991. This explicitly implies that when the local communities' sense of ownership and belongingness diminishes, the threats they have injected to the park increases. Hence, protection and preservation of the environmental resources of the park become in vain in the absence the local peoples' willingness and belongingness.

## 4.4.2. Economic Benefits of Local Communities

### 4.4.2.1. Creation of Local Labor

The local communities living in and around BMNP are trapped with poverty and suffering from limited local labor opportunities. Ecotourism is supposed to curb such odds by creating local labor. Actually though not for all members of the local communities, ecotourism has created new jobs for some of them in the form of tour guides, scouts, horse renters, horse porters, cooks and hand craft workers. The results obtained from field survey and the information acquired from BMNP Head Quarter and Diniso Wereda Culture and Tourism Offices clearly shows that ecotourism development have created direct, indirect and induce local labor. Table 14 can vividly substantiate such reality.

Table 14 .Do ecotourism development in BMNP creates local labor? (Local communities' Responses)

	Responses	Count	Percent
Local communities	No- response	2	3.3
	No	11	18.3
	Yes	47	78.3
	Total	60	100

Source: Field survey 2011

As demonstrated from table 14, it is perhaps true that ecotourism development in BMNP has opted to create local labor. 47 (78.3%) of the respondents' responses are the empirical findings helps to considerate ecotourism as an activity significantly create local labor. Added to this, it has been found that ecotourism development in BMNP emerged to diversify the economies of local communities. Hence, if not for all members of the local communities, ecotourism become the current and potential activity pertains to provide alternative livelihoods. The field survey result indicated in table 15 looks to justify this assumption.

Table15. Ecotourism has emerged as alternative livelihoods for local communities (Stakeholders' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
Agree	10	55.6
Disagree	1	5.6
Undecided	2	11.1
Strongly Agree	3	16.7
Strongly Disagree	2	11.1
Total	18	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

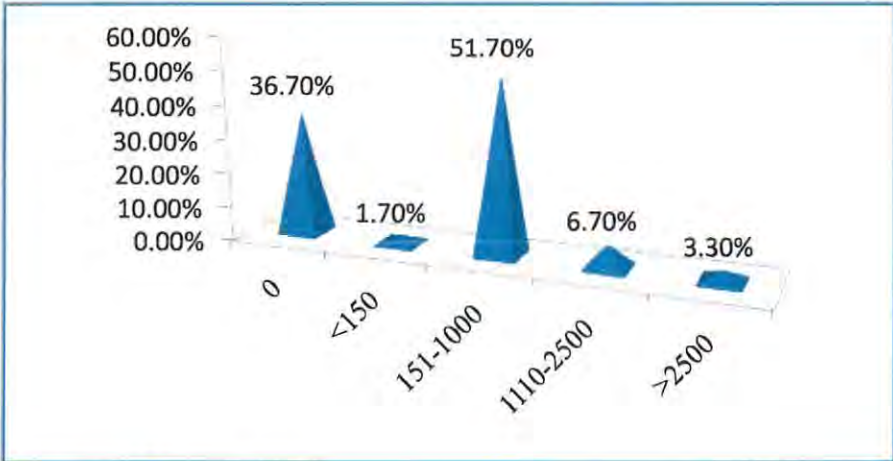
The result observed from table14 and 15 clearly underpinned that ecotourism development in BMNP has created local labor and emerged as alternative livelihoods for the local communities. Nevertheless, the case is not uniform all over the Weredas in which the park boundary lies. The information extracted from the interview conducted with the head of Culture and Tourism Office Goba Wereda has justified the prevalence of unequal distribution of the benefits generated from BMNP. Thus, though ecotourism development in BMNP has created local labor, the labor opportunities have not claimed to be fair and just. Consequently, the principles of equitability of ecotourism development seem to be stand out underneath in BMNP.

#### 4.4.2.2. Improvement of Household Income

With the average household size of 7.3, looking for the source of income to improve the living standards are the obligatory conditions not a privilege among the local communities of BMNP. Whatever projects takes place there, it should gear to improve the household income of the communities. In actual sense ecotourism development is proposed to potentially improve of the household income of the local communities. It is assumed that the local communities could derive income by directly participating in ecotourism activities. Whereas others may earn as a result of the multiplier effects created by ecotourism. Thus, it is claimed to alleviate the income

disparities persist among the local communities. Above all ensuring the economic wellbeing of the local communities could be incepted as the foci of ecotourism development. Curing the economic questions of the local communities by and large be the very objectives of ecotourism development. This is the case in point when ecotourism development is uncovered. The field survey result obtained from BMNP vividly supports this assumption. To this end, though not exhaustively claimed to be fair, the local communities in and around BMNP earn certain amount of income from ecotourism. Nevertheless, as to Jarso and Mesubaha, the economic benefits the local communities enjoy remained creating disparities. It is possibly found that the local communities who are closer to the head quarter enjoy more economic and social benefits as compared to those who are far from the head quarter. Their involvement is also greatly observed as they come closer to the head quarter. For instance, almost all tour guides, horse renters, horse porters, cooks, handcraft workers and wood sellers are from Dinisho Wereda. Amidst of such disparities the income the local communities earn from ecotourism ranges from null to 2500ETB as clearly plotted on the following graph.

Figure13. Amounts of money the local communities earn per month ( in Birr) from ecotourism.



Source: Field Survey 2011.

As observed from figure13, 51.7% of the respondents said that the local communities earn 151-1000birr per month, 6.7% of them said that the local communities earn 1100-2500 birr per month and 3.3% argued that the local communities earn above 2500birr per month. Thus, more likely the local communities who engage in ecotourism activities seem to earn 151-1000 birr per month.

Nevertheless, the income earned from ecotourism is not claimed to be dependable. According to Geremew, Anouska ,Zarayoo, and Hajii the income generated from ecotourism is highly vulnerable to seasonality and cannot claim to be exhaustively dependable. They have stressed that ecotourism development in BMNP is at its infant stage and hardly generate sufficient income to meet the economic needs of the local communities. The findings obtained from field survey reveals that, though ecotourism development in BMNP generates income for the locals, the amount of income they are acquiring proved to be insufficient. 47(78.3%) of the respondents have contended about the dependability of the income earned from ecotourism. This case could be seen from table 16.

Table16. Do you think the income the local communities earn from ecotourism is dependable?  
(Local communities' Responses)

Response	Count	Percent
Non -response	6	10.0
No	47	78.3
Yes	7	11.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey2011

The participants of FGD held at Gofingera highly underpinned that the income obtained from ecotourism has been contended to be enough to improve the quality of life of the local communities. The participants express their contention by using the local language as '*Kan sangaa tokkon qotuu hin quufu?*' Literary means the one who plough with a single Ox would likely to be exposed to hunger. This implies income acquired from ecotourism is not dependable and sound in simulating household income, diversify the local economies and enhance the living standards of the local communities. Instead it is supplementary to agriculture. Nevertheless, though not independently used as a livelihood basis, ecotourism has been improving the life the poor.

#### 4.4.2.3. Encouragement of Local Entrepreneurship and Business Ownership

Ecotourism development should gear towards the establishment of locally owned and managed ecotourism businesses. The local communities are supposed to become the owner of lodges, souvenir shops and other locally owned small scale tourism businesses. As a result the local

people are expected to become the sole entrepreneurs .It is assumed to link local people with the market. Consequently, it is an important low cost mechanism for the local businesses and artisans to market and sell their goods. Nevertheless, it has been hardly observed in BMNP while lodges, camp sites and others are owned and managed by the local communities. BMNP hosts only one functional lodge entirely administered by the park. The park’s satellite camps are also administered by the park administration. It has been hard to find locally owned and managed formal ecotourism businesses .The results obtained from field survey shown on table17 indicates there are few local businesses run and administered by the local communities.

Table17. Do you know local businesses owned by local communities? (Stakeholders’ Responses).

<b>Reponses</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>No</b>	12	66.7
<b>Yes</b>	6	33.3
<b>Total</b>	18	100.0

Sources: Field survey 2011

The field survey result observed from table17 indicates that 12(66.7%) of the stakeholders contended about the prevalence of locally owned ecotourism businesses. This notion is further strengthened by the responses acquired from local communities shown on table18. Thus, few local entrepreneurs have been observed and ecotourism businesses are hardly be managed and administered by the local communities. But it undeniable that ecotourism practices have created market opportunities for the local communities to sell their products.

Table 18. Ecotourism activities of BMNP are administered by the locals (Local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No- response	2	3.3
Agree	18	30.0
Disagree	12	20.0
Not Agree	3	5.0
Strongly Agree	8	13.3
Strongly Disagree	17	28.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field survey 2011

Table 18 indicates 29(48.3%) of the local respondents contended about their role in administering and managing ecotourism businesses. But ecotourism is supposed to decentralize the economic decision making powers to the local communities. The actual principle of ecotourism development is put aside and ecotourism practices in BMNP barely encourage the local communities to become the sole entrepreneurs and local business owners.

#### 4.4.2 .4. Creation of Alternative Livelihoods for Local Communities

Pursuant to the limitation of livelihood options, the local communities have been dependent on unsustainable use of the resources of BMNP .Consequently; the local communities are forced to engage in illegal hunting, logging, fuel wood collection and uncontrolled burning. As clearly pointed out by Geremew, Zarayoo, Anouska, and Hajii the local communities are exhaustively depending on the resource values of the park to sustain their livelihood needs. The local communities derive their energy needs from the resources of the park. They also derive fodders and pastures for their cattle. The land under forest is assumed to be more fertile and entice agricultural interests of the local communities. For instance, FGD held at Gojera can be a vivid example that highly underpinned as to how lack of alternative livelihoods become a ferocious challenge threatening the resource values of the park. The local poor have non- other than the resources of BMNP to use as source of energy. The local peoples' encroachment into the park

not too late after the downfall of Mengistu's regime implies that unless the contradiction between livelihoods demands and resource conservation are solved; the aspiration to maintain environmental sustainability remains to be a meager vow. The survey result shown on table 19 clarifies about the limitation of livelihood options that have induced the local communities to depend on extractive and consumptive use activities of the resources of BMNP.

Table 19 .Lack of alternative livelihoods has made the local communities to depend on unsustainable use of the resources of the park (Stakeholders' Responses).

	Response	Count	Percent
Stakeholders' Responses	Agree	6	33.3
	Strongly Agree	5	27.8
	Disagree	5	27.8
	Strongly Disagree	0	0
	Undecided	2	11.1
	Total	18	100

Source: Field Survey 2011

Table 19 Shows that lack of alternative livelihoods has made the local communities to depend on unsustainable use of resources of the park. And as shown from the following table too ecotourism development in BMNP hardly has addressed the livelihood demands of the local communities. Therefore, it is hard to say that ecotourism development has ensured the economic dimensions of sustainability. Still the local communities have few source of income to sustain their lives. Moreover, the income earned from ecotourism has not assumed to be sufficient to meet the livelihood needs of the local communities. The local communities have not ample sources of income though ecotourism practices are still takes place in BMNP. The result obtained from field survey as shown in table 20 highly strengthens this fact.

Table20. Locals of BMNP have ample income sources (Local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	11	18.3
Disagree	16	26.7
Undecided	6	10.0
Strongly Agree	8	13.3
Strongly Disagree	17	28.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

Moreover, Lack of livelihood options and source of income have exacerbated the dependence of local communities on the resource values of BMNP. This notion is further strengthened by local communities participate in FGD held at Gofingera .The idea extracted from focus group discussion reveals that without appropriately addressing the economic needs of the local communities, the mere vow of natural resource conservation seems to be unattainable. The participants of FGD strongly argued that if resource conservation project is to bear fruit, there must be a mechanism to cope up with the livelihood problems of the local communities unless emerged to a contradiction than a contradistinction. This is because the livelihoods of the local communities are strongly linked with the resource potentials of the park. This could be further strengthened by the survey result obtained indicated in table 21.

Table21. Livelihoods of the locals depend on the resources of the park (Local Communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	25	41.7
Disagree	7	11.7
Undecided	2	3.3
Strongly Agree	20	33.3
Strongly Disagree	4	6.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

Both tables highly underpinned lack of other sources of income and alternative livelihoods have indebted the local communities to depend on unsustainable use of the resources of the park. Therefore, ecotourism development in BMNP is not claimed to be economically sound and sustainable.

#### 4.4.3. Local Communities Involvement in Decision Making Process

It is most often argued that ecotourism enhances the managerial and organizational capacities and cults of the local communities; and they become better prepared to defend external resource encroachments. This pertains to increase the recognition of the local communities in planning, developing and managing ecotourism activities. By giving more opportunities for the local communities to actively participate, ecotourism can make them the social actor than passive subjects. Besides, ecotourism development aspires to integrate the whims and interests of the local communities at its utmost. Hence, it is to secure the locals customary resource user rights. Above all avoiding belittling the role of local communities are claimed to be achieved when community oriented ecotourism has being established. Nevertheless, the field survey result indicates that ecotourism development in BMNP has not yet empowered the local communities and their interests have not been getting involved. The result obtained from field survey has demonstrated this fact as seen from table 22.

Table22. Ecotourism development is community oriented (Local Communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	9	15.0
Disagree	18	30.0
Undecided	3	5.0
Strongly Agree	6	10.0
Strongly Disagree	22	36.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

As observed from the table 22, 40(66.7%) of the local respondents supports that ecotourism

developments in BMNP have not established and operated based on the interests of the local communities. Whereas 15(25%) of the respondents arguing for the community orientation of ecotourism activities. On the other hand as observed from table23 ecotourism development in BMNP has not yet empowered them to become the social actor.

Table23. Ecotourism of BMNP Empower locals (Local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	3	5.0
Agree	9	15.0
Disagree	16	26.7
Undecided	4	6.7
Strongly Agree	9	15.0
Strongly Disagree	19	31.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011

This implies ecotourism development in BMNP is at its sluggish pace and its impact is not yet significantly realized or the impact it has not yet extracted at its utmost stances. However, as demonstrated from table24 ecotourism development in BMNP is proved to improve popular participation.

Table24. Ecotourism development improves popular participation (Local Communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	23	38.3
Disagree	11	18.3
Undecided	2	3.3
Strongly Agree	20	33.3
Strongly Disagree	2	3.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey2011

It seems as observed from table24, ecotourism development in BMNP pertains to encourage popular participation. Its beginning resembles a promissory in incorporating the interests of the local communities. But it is not exhaustively claimed to be participatory enough with its infancy in nature.

#### 4.4.4. Appreciation and Understanding of the Local Cultures

Ecotourism is known to build an appreciation for the cultures of the local communities. The enhancement of appreciation often encourages the local communities to develop sense of cultural pride. They are also inspired to develop their cultural assets such as customs, handicrafts, food and cultural shows. Consequently the local culture could be the source of income. So is it really ecotourism development in BMNP fosters cultural pride?

As observed from table25, 47(78.3%) of the local communities have convinced about the role of ecotourism in enhancing appreciation and recognition of the local culture. 8(13.3%) of the local communities refuses about the role of ecotourism in fostering cultural pride.

Table25.Ecotourism improves cultural Pride (Stakeholders' and local communities' Responses).

Responses	Count	Percent
No-response	2	3.3
Agree	33	55.0
Disagree	6	10.0
Undecided	3	5.0
Strongly Agree	14	23.3
Strongly Disagree	2	3.3
Total	60	100.0

Sources: Field Survey 2011

On the other hand the field survey result reveals that the tourists visiting BMNP are respecting the local culture as this notion acquired 49(81.7%) local communities' response supporting this facet. Therefore, it is possible to confirm that ecotourism development in BMNP has not as seriously resulted in threatening of the local culture.

#### 4.5. Legislative and Institutional Framework

Many countries of the world are suffering from lack of central and effective institutional framework and legislative baseline for the development of ecotourism. This may be partly related to the less emphasis and recognition given to ecotourism. Some countries view ecotourism as one of the many subsets of tourism. They contended that formulating and implementing specific ecotourism policy and institutional framework for ecotourism as a mere cost than bringing advantages. As a result regulation and certification of ecotourism activities have not yet widely observed. Nevertheless, it has been argued that establishing regulation and policy framework for ecotourism development helps to ensure its sustainability (Quebec Declaration 2002:17). When one considers about BMNP, the park is not legally gazetted and suffering from lack of specific legislation and policy (UNDP2007:55).

However, the result obtained from field survey demonstrates that there are legislative and institutional frameworks formulated and implemented to enhance ecotourism development in BMNP as seen from table 26. Considering the existence of specific ecotourism policy and legislative framework seem to contradict the late formulation and implementation of the overall tourism policy of Ethiopia. The respondents seem to equate the codes of ethics formulated and implemented in BMNP to laws and legislations.

Table 26. Do you know legislations, laws and regulations formulated and enforced to facilitate ecotourism development in BMNP?(Stakeholders' Responses ).

Responses	Count	Percent
No -response	2	11.1
No	7	38.9
Yes	9	50.0
Total	18	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2011



As observed from table 26, 9(50%) of the respondents claim about the existence of legislative baseline for the establishment of ecotourism. However, the survey result shown on table27contravenes the result indicated in table26 suggesting that lack of laws, legislations and regulations has hindered ecotourism development in BMNP.

Table27. Dou you think absence of laws, legislatives and regulations hinder ecotourism development in BMNP? (Stakeholders' Responses)

Responses	Count	Percent
No –response	8	44.4
No	1	5.6
Yes	9	50.0
Total	18	100.0

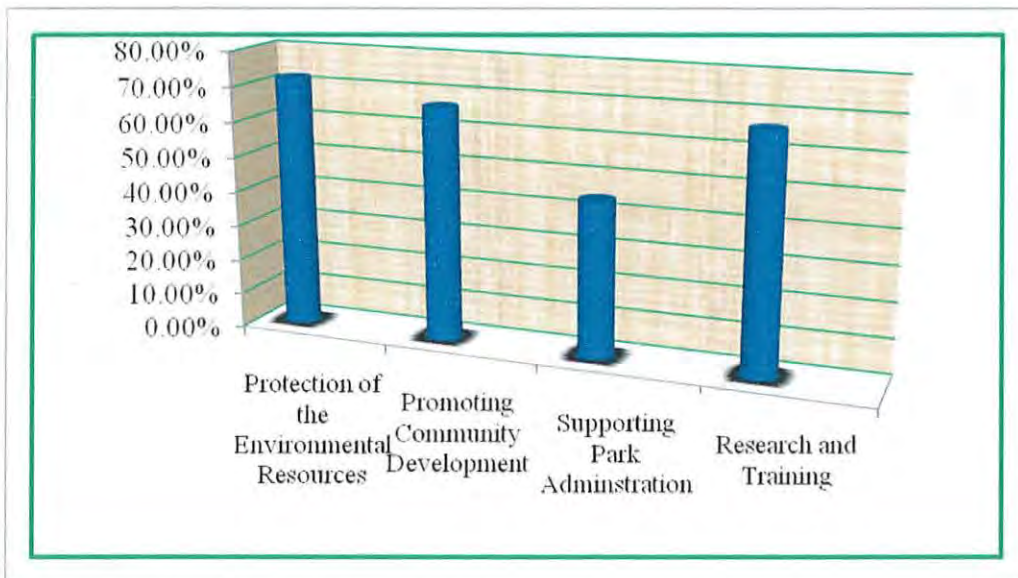
Source: Field survey 2011

As indicated in 27, 50% of the respondents held an idea that lack of laws, legislations and regulations hampered ecotourism development. Whereas 8(44.4%) of the respondents rated no response. This implies they may not have ample information or being confused with what the necessity of specific ecotourism policy. Still it is high to conclude that absence of laws, legislations and regulations impeded the sustainability dimensions of ecotourism development in BMNP.

#### 4.6. NGOs Participating in Ecotourism Development

NGOs are valuable partners in the process of developing ecotourism. They are supposed to provide technical and financial assistance. In this regard according to the information obtained from the park administration; Frankfurt Zoological Society, Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Project, Melka Ethiopia and Farm Africa /SOS Sahel Ethiopia are among the main NGOs participating in ecotourism development. According to Anouska, NGOs have primarily engaged in supporting park operation, tourism development, resource conservation, community mobilization and logistical support.

Figure14. Major duties of NGOs.



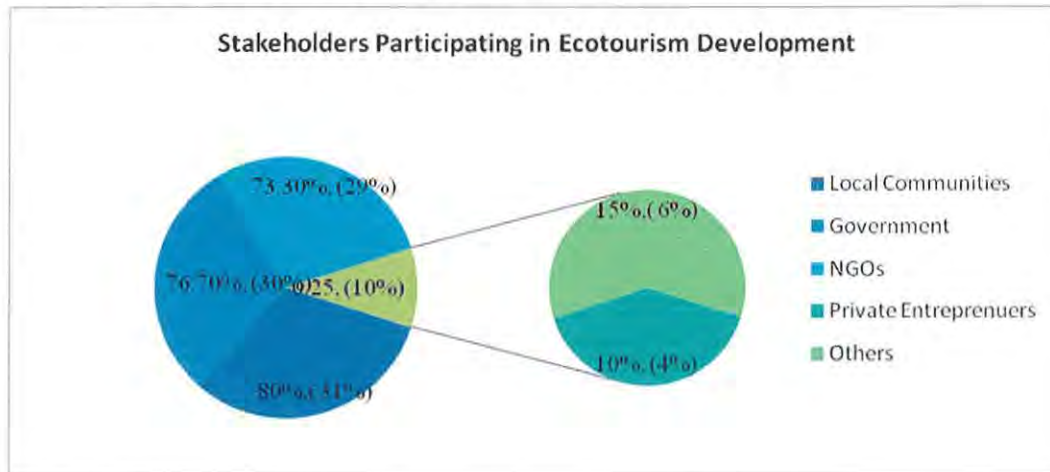
Source: Field Survey 2011

From the above figure it is observed that the NGOs are highly participate in the protection of the environmental resources, promotion of community development, supporting park administration and conducting researches, trainings and environmental education

#### **4.7. Stakeholders Participate in Ecotourism Development**

Ecotourism is a multi-sectoral tourism activity that requires different stakeholders to participate. Hence, its success is greatly determined by the role every stakeholder pertains to play. Based on underlined presupposition, it has been observed that in BMNP ecotourism development different stakeholders of varies interests have been participating as identified below.

Figure 15. Stakeholders participating in ecotourism development.



Source: Field survey 2011

As observed from figure 15, 30% of the respondents confess the researcher that the government is the sole actor in developing ecotourism projects in BMNP. 29% of the respondents on the other consider NGOs as the sole actor in fostering ecotourism activities. 31% of the respondents gave the largest credit for local communities to establish ecotourism projects. It is however, hard to realize the role of private entrepreneurs in participating in ecotourism projects.

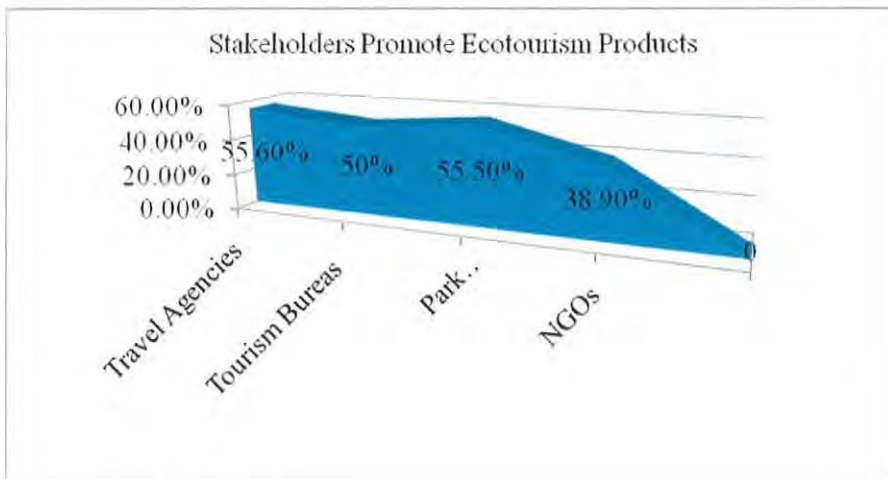
#### 4.8. Promotion of Eco- Products of BMNP

Ethiopia and BMNP in particular is relatively unknown and does not have a place on the world tourism map. Marketing is a key component of tourism development for Ethiopia, but it is in its infancy here. Tourism marketing is generally the responsibility of government authorities, where the technical expertise is placed and indeed strategic development planning is currently underway at the MoCT (Ministry of Culture of Tourism). The ability of BMNP management to direct and develop marketing is limited; however liaison, information sharing and the development of innovative publicity materials targeting appropriate markets are key. Hence, the right 'target market' (*i.e.* the likely tourists that will be attracted to BMNP and within that the type of tourists that BMNP wishes to attract) has not been identified and known. Then promotion, marketing and infrastructure development have not appropriately addressed.

This implies the mere amassments of the exceptional resource values do not suffice to attract ecotourists to eco-destination. Effective promotion greatly materializes .In these regard different

partners are supposed to take their own role in promoting the potential and available resources of the park. Hence, selecting appropriate marketing strategy highly required. Based on the assumption ascertained above it has been found that different partners are taking part in promoting eco-products of BMNP. The following figure clearly shows the main partners engage in promoting the products.

Figure16. Stakeholders Promote ecotourism products of BMNP



Source: Field Survey2011

As observed from figure16, ecotourism products are promoted by the local communities, travel agencies, tourism bureaus, park administration and NGOs. However, Anouska, Zarayoo and Geremew have underscored about the effectiveness of the promotional and marketing strategy designed to touch the target market. And the ecotourism products of BMNP have not claimed to be promoted effectively.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### Conclusion and Recommendations

#### 5.1 Conclusion

##### 5.1.1 Economic Dimensions of Ecotourism Development in BMNP

Still 95% of the local communities depend on agriculture as the main stay and livelihoods basis. This number tends to be higher than the number of Ethiopian depending on agriculture as the economic basis. Thus, ecotourism development in BMNP hardly proved to provide sound economic basis for the local communities. It has not yet been considered as economically dependable activity but opted to be supplementary to agriculture. Of course ecotourism provide local labor opportunity. The local communities are serving as tour guides, horse porters and horse renters, cooks, wood sellers, hand craft workers and scouts. They have earned monthly income that ranges from 151-1000ETB as indicated on figure13. 78.3% of the respondents' response favoring the idea that ecotourism has emerged as a livelihood options for those local communities. But, it has not yet emerged as alternative livelihoods for the entire local communities as indicated on table 20. The local communities are still observed while depending on unsustainable use of the resource of the park. Moreover, ecotourism development in BMNP has hardly empowered the local communities as the local entrepreneurs and businesses owners. Therefore, it is a meager vow to consider ecotourism development in BMNP as economically sound and sustainable.

##### 5.1.2 Environmental Sustainability

Of course ecotourism development in BMNP has improved the economic values of wildlife and environmental resources. It has also inspired the interests and initiations of the local communities to conserve and protect the exceptional resource values of BMNP. However, it has not been realized while addressing financial shortfalls encountering conservation efforts. Still the conservation and protection of the natural resources of the park depends on the budget allocated from the government and donation from NGOs. One hand the budget allocated from the government for conservation is the lowest in world only accounting to\$5/km<sup>2</sup>. One the other hand the income generated from ecotourism has not yet reinvested for resource conservation and community development rather appropriated back to the central treasury. This is why ecotourism

development in BMNP is not claimed to be environmentally sustainable and mitigating problems hampering conservation efforts.

### **5.1.3 Social Dimensions of Ecotourism Development**

Ecotourism development in BMNP has rarely enhanced the managerial and organizational capacities of the local communities. Its establishment and operation have not yet been commenced on the basis of the whims and interests of the local communities. 66.7% of the respondents have insisted about the involvement and incorporation of the interests and whims of the local communities. But it has observed while encouraging popular participation.

Furthermore, ecotourism also has enhanced the appreciation and recognition of the local culture. The local communities have begun to be pride of their local culture. Needless to, ecotourism development in BMNP opt to revitalize the cultural values of the local communities.

### **5.1.4 Stewardship in Ecotourism Development**

Series of discussions and findings attest about the rationale of stakeholders' involvement in ecotourism development. Though not fully tapped, government, local communities and NGOs are among the prime stakeholders engaged in ecotourism development in BMNP .But lack of cohesiveness, integrity and cooperation are among the serious problems stagnated ecotourism development in BMNP.

### **5.1.5 Legislative and Institutional Framework**

The country as a whole and BMNP in particular lacks effective and sound institutional framework and legal bases for ecotourism development. This is the serious problem hampering ecotourism development in BMNP.

### **5.1.6 Promotion and Marketing Eco-Products of BMNP**

BMNP is relatively unknown on the world tourism map. The exceptional tourism products have been poorly promoted and marketed .But as indicated on figure16, the local communities, travel agencies, tourism bureaus, park administration and NGOs are among the major stakeholders participating in promoting and marketing Eco-products of BMNP. Nevertheless, the eco-products of BMNP have not effectively tapped and still the economic values of wildlife and environmental resources are not claimed to reach at the stage of the potential resources of the park.

## 5.2 Recommendations

Based on the results obtained from the study, recommendations and strategic options related to environmental, economic and social implications of ecotourism development in BMNP are hereby identified as follows:

1. Any projects formulated and is going to be formulated to protect and conserve the environmental resources of BMNP should integrate the interests and whims of the local communities. The local communities' voices and interests should not be marred for the mere fact of environmental conservation .The natural resource conservation dilemma should not overdue the sociological resources. Local communities should have to be effectively consulted about the effects of ecotourism activities in BMNP .Above all communities' voices should have to be heard and get involved into ecotourism development.
2. Ecotourism development should involve the local communities in planning, developing and managing the activities. Ecotourism activities should not alter the traditional livelihoods of the local communities. Its development should greatly involve the local communities at all stages of ecotourism development in order to ensure their interests. Furthermore, the local communities should be given opportunities at all levels of management in BMNP.
3. The livelihoods of the local communities should be effectively addressed to achieve conservation efforts. This is because the mere vow of protecting the natural resource values of the park cannot claim to be achievable with the prevalence of abject poverty and lack of livelihood options. Most of the time the benefits generated from ecotourism is assumed to stay in the local area. As a result the income generated from ecotourism should be reinvested for community development and maintaining the economic well being of the local communities.
4. Policymakers should Propose Ecotourism as a Supplementary Option for Sustainable Development in BMNP.

The benefits from ecotourism activities are to be evenly distributed according to location, educational status, gender, and age. Moreover, tourism is a seasonal sector, with often unpredictable returns. As a result, ecotourism cannot be relied upon as a viable livelihood substitution for other activities. Therefore, ecotourism programs should be supplemented with other methods of sustainable development.

5. Policymakers should establish ecotourism monitoring and accountability programs to ensure that local communities receive appropriate amounts of revenue.

Adequate financial benefits from ecotourism activities are often not transferred to local communities. If systems of checks and balances are promoted and the accounting of various programs is monitored, then the provision of benefits from ecotourism to local communities can be ensured.

6. Institutional and policy frameworks should have to be established.

There is no specific legislative and institutional framework established to effectuate ecotourism development in BMNP. Hence, due to lack of policy baseline and institutional framework, ecotourism development in BMNP is not scoring significant economic and environmental contributions.

7. Linking Economic Benefits to Conservation

Ecotourism development takes place in BMNP should link the benefits to the conservation of the natural environment. One of the basic justifications for the development of ecotourism is that the approach should explicitly recognize the sustenance of natural resources in reconciliation with the economic wellbeing of the local communities. Linking the benefits of ecotourism to conservation helps to ensure that this interdependency is properly recognized and taken into account in the planning and management of ecotourism. Linking economic benefits with conservation helps to alleviate the problems associated with environmental damage, wildlife disturbances or loss of access to resources formerly employed by the community, tend to remain localized. Ensuring that ecotourism providers purchase their inputs from local suppliers and employ local people can ease this situation. This helps keep the economic benefits of ecotourism within the local area, and gives local people more of an incentive to ensure that those benefits will still be received in the long term. Secondly, ensuring that the benefits are spread widely within the local community can also enhance the linkage between the economic benefits of ecotourism and its conservation objectives. This will help to ensure that the incentive to look after the resource base on which ecotourism depends is spread as widely as possible among those who are likely to have negative impacts upon it. Thirdly, the linkage between economic benefits and conservation can be made more direct. One way of doing this is to ensure that any access fees that are charged are channeled directly into efforts concerned with the management of ecotourism activity and the conservation of its resource base.

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## APPENDEX-A Questionnaires filled by the Stakeholders

This questionnaire is filled by Stakeholders Participating in Ecotourism Development in Bale Mountains National park.

The objective of the questionnaire is to undertake the research about how far ecotourism developments in BMNP is benefiting the local communities (economically and socially) and conserving the natural resources of the park. The information you are providing is used only for academic purpose and is keep confidential.

### Part One: Personal Information

1. Occupation \_\_\_\_\_,

2. Sex A. Male  B. Female

3. Age A. Below 16  B. Between 17-25   
C. Between 26-36  D. 36 and above

4. Educational Background

A. Primary school complete  B. Secondary school complete   
C. Vocational training complete  D. Bachelor Degree

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

Part Two: Answer the following Questions by putting (x) in front of your answer or write your answer depending on the nature of the questions provided.

1. Which is /are the main economic activity/activities of the local communities? You can give more than one answer.

Farming	
Forestry	
Ecotourism	
Livestock production	

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

2. In which ecotourism practices do the local communities participate? Your answer may be more than one.

House Renting	
Camping	
Lodging	
Hotel Services	
Souvenir Sales	
Photographing	
Tour Guiding	
Horse Renting	
Cultural shows	

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which ecotourism activities widely practiced in BMNP?

Trophy Hunting	
Sport fishing	
Forest management	
Wildlife watching	

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which type of employment opportunities do ecotourism create for the local communities?

Direct	
Indirect	
Induced	
No employment at all	

5. Who do you think protect and preserve the exceptional resources of BMNP? You can give more than one answer.

Local communities	
Government	
NGOs	
Private Entrepreneurs	
Funders	

6. Do you know the sources of finance to conserve the natural resources of BMNP?

A. Yes

B. No

7. If your answer for question No '6' is 'YES', give your answer by putting (x) in front of your choice. You can give more than one answer.

Government Budget	
Contributions from the local communities	
Revenue generated from ecotourism	
Donation from NGOs and funding agencies	
Licensing and registration services taxes	

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

8. Is the income generated from ecotourism supports environmental protection and conservation of the park?

A. Yes  B. No

9. If your answer for question No '8' is 'NO', for what purpose the income is used for?

A. Reinvested for community development

B. Appropriated back to the central treasury

C. Reinvested for administrative purpose

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

10. In what form does BMNP generate income from ecotourism?

A. Concession fees  B. User fees

C. Sales and royalties  D. Donation

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you know legislations, laws and regulations formulated and enforced to facilitate ecotourism development in BMNP?

A. Yes  N. No

12. If your answer for question No '11' is 'NO', do think that absence of laws, legislations and regulations hinders ecotourism developments of the park?

A. Yes  B. No

13. Are ecotourism activities in BMNP licensed and registered?

A. Yes  B. No

14. If your answer for question No '13' is 'NO', do you think absence of licensing and registration affect the sustainable development of ecotourism in BMNP?

A. Yes  B. No

15. Do you know any NGOs participate in ecotourism development in BMNP?

A. Yes  B. No

16. If your answer for question No '15' is 'YES' what are the major duties these NGOs?

A. Protection of environmental resources

B. Promoting community development

C. Undertaking research and training local communities; and other stakeholders.

D. Managing the parks

E. If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

17. Do you know any ecotourism businesses owned by the local communities?

A. Yes  B. No

18. If your answer for question No '17' is 'NO', who do know owe it?

A. Government /Park administration  B. NGOs

C. Donors  D. Private entrepreneurs

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

19. Do you know the stakeholders who participate in ecotourism development of BMNP?

A. Yes

B. No

20. If your answer for question No '19' is 'A', mention some of them

\_\_\_\_\_

21. Do you know any tourism industry stakeholder promote ecotourism products of BMNP?

A. Yes

B. No

22. If your answer for question No '21' is 'Yes', who do you think promote it?

A. Travel agencies

B. Tourism Bureaus

C. Park administration

D. NGOs

If anything different mention \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Three:** This questionnaire is prepared to get detailed information about the ecotourism activities in BMNP from economic, social and environmental points of view. Please indicate your response by putting (×) in front of each item of your options against each statement. Hence, follow the hit given below.

SA-Strongly agree

AG-Agree

DS-Disagree

SD-Strongly Disagree

UN-Undecided

No		SA	AG	DS	SD	UN
1	Ecotourism in BMNP increases the economic importance of wildlife and environmental resources.					
2	Ecotourism development in BMNP minimizes the consumptive and extractive use of the natural resources of the park.					
3	The development of ecotourism in BMNP is based on the optimum use of the natural resources of the park					
4	Ecotourism promotes private conservation efforts in the park.					
5	Ecotourism development in BMNP is community oriented.					
6	Ecotourism development in the BMNP ignores the interests of the local communities.					
7.	Ecotourism practices in BMNP displace the local communities from their traditional livelihoods.					
8	Ecotourism activities provide alternative livelihoods for the local communities.					
9	Lack of alternative livelihoods has made the local communities to depend on unsustainable use of the resources of the park.					
10	Ecotourism is an alternative and competitive land use strategy for the local communities.					
11	Ecotourism recognizes, promotes and supports the local communities' resource ownership rights.					
12	Ecotourism activities in BMNP empower the local people to mobilize their capacities to become a social actor than the passive subjects.					
13	Ecotourism development in BMNP increases the managerial					

	and organizational capacities of the local communities.					
14	Ecotourism creates local labor.					
15	Ecotourism development has created market opportunities for the local products.					
16	Ecotourism development in BMNP depends on the infrastructures developed in harmony with the environment.					
17	The government has created suitable conditions for development ecotourism in BMNP.					
18	The park administration is skillful and knowledgeable to mobilize stakeholders' participation.					
19.	Ecotourism development improves the quality of life of the local communities.					
20	Ecotourism has diversified the livelihoods of the local communities.					
21	Ecotourism has changed the habits of the local people and reduce threats to the park.					
22	The regaining of BMNP from the regional government by the federal government threatened land ownership of the local communities.					

## APPNDEX-B Questionnaires filled by the local communities Gaafannoo Jiraattota

### Naannootiin Guutamu

Kaayyoon gaafannoo kanaa lkootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreeen Baalee keessatti geggeeffamaa jiru hanga kam uummata naannoo sanaa fayyadamaa taasisaa akka jiruu akkasumas qabeenya paarkichaa kunuunsuu fi madda galii akka ta'aa jiru baruuf qu'annoo geggeessuu dha. Kanaafuu, qo'annoo kana galmaan gahuuf odeeffannoon sin irraa argamu barbaachisaa dha. Odeeffannoon isin kennitan kun kan oolu qo'aannoo Digirii Lammaffaaf guutuuf waan ta'eef icciitummaan isaa kan eeggame dha..

### Kutaa Tokkoffaa: Odeeffannoo Dhuunfaa

#### 1 .Saala

A. Dhiira

B. Dhalaa

#### 2. Umurii

A. Waggaa 16 gadi

B. Waggaa 17-25

C. Waggaa 26-35

E. Waggaa 36 ol

#### 3. Haala maatii

A. Fudhee/heerumte

B. Leexaa

C. Hiikaa/hiiktuu

D. Bosora/bosortii

#### 4 .Sadarkaa barnootaa

A. Kutaa 1-6

B. Kutaa 7-10

A. Kutaa 11-12

E. Barnootaa Ogummaa fi Teekinikaa

B. Digrii Duraa

Kan biraa yoo ta'e ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_



### Kutaa Lammaffaa

Gaaffiiwwan armaan gadiitiif deebii keessan mallattoo(x) ka'un YKN akka haala gaaffichaatti barreeffamaan deebisaa.

1. Hojii maalirratti bobbaatan?

A. Qonna

B. Daldala

C. Tuurizimii

D. Hormaata Horii

E. Kununsa qabeenya bosonaa

Kan biraa yoo ta'e ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_

2. Haali hojii keessanii maal fakkaataa?

A. Qacaramaa/guutummaatti/

B. Qacarrii yeroo

C. Hojii dhunfaa

D. Hojii dhabeessa

Kan biraa yoo ta'e ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_

3. Gita ikootuurizimii(gita tuurizimii jireenya uummataa ,aadaa fi qabeenya giddu galeessa godhate) armaan gadii keessaa kam irratti hirmaachaa jirtuu?

A. Fardeen kireessurratti

B. Mana kireessurratti

C. Gurgutaa meeshaa aadaarratti

D. Agarsiisa aadaarratti

E. Daawachiissuurratti

Kan biraa yoo jiraate ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_

4. Gita ikootuurizimii armaan gadii keessaa kan bali'inaan Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee keessatti geggeeffamaa mallattoo(X)n argisiisaa. (Deebiin keessaniif filanoo tokkoo fi isaa ol filuu ni dandeechu)

Waalayaa Adamsuu	
Bineensaa Dagalaa Daawwachuu	
Qurxummii Adamsuu	
Gaarreen Ba'uu	
Bosona kunuunsuu	

Kan biraa yoo jiraate ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_

5. Ikootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee uummata naannootiif gita hojii uummee jiraa?

A. Uumee jira

B. Hin uumne

6. Yoo deebiin gaaffii '5ffaaf' kennitan 'hin uumnee'ta'e, sababiin isaa maal ta'u danda' a jettanii yaadduu?

7. Ikootuurizimii Paarkii Gaarreen Baaleetti hundeeffame madda galii siniif ta'aa jiraa?

A. Ta'aa jira

B. Ta'aa hin jiru

8. Gaaffii '7ffaaf' deebiin keessan yoo 'ta'a jira' ta'e galiin ji'an argatan hangam ta'aa?

A. Qarshii 150gadi

B. Qarshii 151-1000

C. Qarshii 1100-2500

D. Qarshii 2510 fi isaa ol

Kan biraa yoo jiraate ibsaa \_\_\_\_\_

10. Galiin ikootuurizimii irraa argattan jireenya keessan haala gaariin geggeessuf gahaadhaa?

A. Gahaa miti

B. Gahaadha

11. Deebiin gaaffii '10ffaaf' deebifan yoo 'gahaa mitii' yoo ta'e, maddii galii keessan kan biraa maalii? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Uummanni naannichaa qabeenya paarkii akka qabeenyasaatti kunuunsaa jiraa?

A. Kunuunsaa jira

B. kunuunsaa hin jiru

13. Deebiin gaaffii '12ffaaf' laattan yoo 'kunuunsaa hin jiruu' ta'e sababiin isaa maal akka ta'e ibsaa. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Kanneen armaan gadii keessaa eegumsaa fi kunuunsa qabeenya addaa Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee godhan mallattoo(x)n argisiisaa. (Deebiin keessaniif filanoo tokkoo fi isaa ol filuu ni dandeechu.)

Uummata Naannoo	
Mootummaa	
Abbootii Qabeenyaa	
Dhabbata Miti Mootummaa(NGOs)	
Kunuunsitoota dhuunfaa	
Waldaa Eegumsa Qabeenya Naannoo Addunyaa	

15. Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee keessatti kan Ikootuurizimii hundeesse eenyuu? Deebii keessan mallattoo(x)n argisiisaa. (Deebiin keessaniif filanoo tokkoo fi isaa ol filuu ni dandeechu)

Uummata naannoo	
Mootumaa	
Namoota dhuunfaa	
Dhabbata Miti Mootummaa (NGOs)	
Abbootii Qabeenyaa	
Waldaa Eegumsa Qabeenya Addunyaa	

16. Mootummaan Federaalaa Hooggansa Paarkii Baalee fudhachuun isaa eegumsaa qabeenyaaf fayyidaa qabaa ?

A. Ni qaba

B. Hin qabu

17. Deebiin gaaffii '16ffaaf' yoo 'hin qabu' ta'e,eenyuu yoo hooggane wayya jettuu? Deebii keessan mallatto(x)n argisiisaa(Deebiin keessaniif filanoo tokkoo fi isaa ol filuu ni dandeechu)

Uummata Naannoo	
Mootummaa Naannoo	
Naamoota Dhuunfaa	
Biiroo Tuurizimii	
Waldaa Eegumsa Qabeenya Naannoo Addunyaa	
Dhabbata Miti Mootummaa (NGOs)	

18. Ikootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee keessatti geggeefamaa jiru abbummaa lafaa uummata naannoo sanaa mirkaneessaa jiraa?

A. Mirkaneessaa jira

B. Mirkaneessaa hin jiru

19. Deebiin gaaffii '18ffaaf' laattan yoo 'mirkaneessaa hin jiru', ta'e, uummata naannoo qabeenyaa lafaa irraa buqqisaa jiraa?

A. Buqqisaa jira

B. Buqqisaa hin jiru.

20. Jiraachuun ikootuurizimii murtii kennummaa uummata naannoo sanaa dabaleeraa?

A. Dabalee jira

B. Dabalee hin jiru

21. Yoo gaaffii '20ffaaf' deebiin kennitan 'dabalee hin jiruu' ta'e, kan murtii dabarsaa jiru eenyuu? Deebii keessan mallatto(X)n argisiisaa. (Deebiin keessaniif filanoo tokkoo fi isaa ol filuu ni dandeechu)

Mootummaa	
Hooggantoota Paarkiichaa	
Naamoota Dhuunfaa	
Waldaa Eegumsa Qabeenya Naannoo Addunyaa	
Dhabbata Miti Mootummaa (NGOs)	

#### Kutaa Sadaffaa

Gaaffiiwwan armaan gaditti ibsamaniif deebii keessan

-Waliin gala (WG)

-Ciminaan waliin gala (CWG)-

-Walii hin galu (WHG)

-Ciminaan walii hin galu (CWHG)

Lakk		WG	CWG	WHG	CWHG	HB
1	Ikootuurizimiin mirga abbummaa lafaa uummata naannoottiif mirkaneesse.					
2	Ikootuurizimiin uummata naannoo lafaa fi qabeenya irraa buqqise.					
3	Ikootuuriziim iaaalcha uummanni kunuunsa qabeenyaa irratti qabu foyyessee.					
4	Ikootuurizimiin fayyadamummaa dinagdee uummata naannoo sanaa fooyyesse.					
5	Uummanni naannoo karoora, guddinaa fi hooggansa ikootuurizimii Paarkii Gaarreen					

	Baalee keessaatti bali'inaan hirmaachaa jira.					
6.	Galiin Ikootuurizimirraa argamu mancaafamummaa qabeenya Paarkii Baalee furaa jira.					
7.	Galiin ikootuurizimiiirraa argamu jireenya uummata naannoo sanaa foyyessaa jira.					
8.	Ikootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee fedhii uummata naannoo sanarratti kan hunda'e miti.					
9.	Ikootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee gita hojii uummata naannoo sanaaf uume.					
10.	Galiin ikootuurizimirraa argamu kunuunsa qabeenyaf oolaa jira.					
11.	Galiin ikootuurizimirraa argamu jireenya uummata foyyessuf oolaa jira.					
12.	Galiin ikootuurizimirraa argamu jireenya uummata foyyesuuf gahaa dha.					
13.	Galiin ikooturizimii irra argamu jireenya uummataa foyyessuuf gahaa miti.					
14.	Ikooturizimmiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee keessatti geggeeffamaa jiru uummata naannoo sanaa akka aadaa fi duudhaa saaniin boonan taasisee jira.					

-Hin beeku (HB) Jechuun mallattoo (x) gaaffii fuldura ka'aa.

15.	Ummanni naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee fedhiisaatiin qabeenya kunuunsaa jira.					
16.	Ummanni naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee dirqiin qabeenya akka kunuunsu taasifamaa jira.					
17.	Qabeenyi addaa Paarkiin Baalee qabu yeroodhaa yerootti manca'aa jira.					
18.	Eeggumsi qabeenya Paarkii Baaleetiif godhamaa jiru yeroodhaa yerootti xiyyeeffannaa argachaa jira.					
19.	Mootummaan uummata naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee jiraniif xiyyeeffannaa kennaa jira.					
20.	Mootummaan uummata naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee jiraniif xiyyeeffannookennaa hin jiru					
21.	Uummanni naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee madda galii gahaa ni qabu.					
22.	Ummanni naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee madda galii gahaa hin qaban.					
23.	Dinagdeen uummata naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee qabeenya paarkicilaarratti kan hunda'e dha.					
24.	Ikooturizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee uummata naannootiin hoogganamaa jira.					
25.	Galiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee irraa argamu uummata naannootiif akka hirmaannaa isaaniitti kennamaa jira.					
26.	Ikootuurizimiin Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee jiru olaantummaa mirga uummataa kan mirkaneesse dha.					
27.	Jiraattonni naannoo Paarkii Gaarreen Baalee fayyidaa paarkichii qabu hubannoo ni qabu.					
28.	Tuuristoonni Paarkii Baalee daawwatan aadaa uummataa ni kabaju.					

### **C. Focus Group Discussion Guiding Questions for the Local Communities**

1. Whose resource is the exceptional resource values of BMNP? Whose responsibility is to protect and preserve it?
2. Is the existence BMNP a threat or opportunity for the local communities?
3. What are the frequent threats endanger the survival of the natural wealth of the park?
4. Is ecotourism addressing the livelihood questions of the local communities?
5. To what extent the local communities enjoy economic advantages from ecotourism activities?
6. Is tourism activities generate income for the local communities to improve their living standard?
7. Are the local communities fairly benefit from ecotourism benefits according to their participation?
8. Is ecotourism development has changed the habit of the local communities to depend on unsustainable resources of BMNP?
9. Is ecotourism the current or potential opportunity to cope up with the livelihood options of the local communities?

#### **D. In-depth Interview Guide for Stakeholders**

1. Do you think that the ecotourism products of BMNP exploited to the extent of its potentials?
2. What are the current and potential dangers threatening the natural wealth of the park?
3. Who are the main actors in the ecotourism development?
4. What are the main sources of finance to conserve and protect the exceptional resource values of BMNP?
5. For what purpose does the income generated from ecotourism used for?
6. Is financial short falls hindering conservation efforts?
7. Who do think more important in maintaining the environmental resources of the park?
8. What do think the main stay of the local communities? What are the available livelihood options of the local communities?
9. Are the local communities involved in the projects takes place in BMNP?
10. Do you think that ecotourism encourages, supports and empowers the local communities to the extent that they emerged as a social actor than passive subjects?
12. In what ecotourism businesses do the local communities take part? Who primarily plan, develop and manage ecotourism activities?
13. What are the possible comments you wish to forward to maintain the natural wealth of the park without harnessing the traditional livelihoods of the local communities?

### E. Lists of Informants

Name	Place of interview	Date of Interview	Position
Addisu Asefa	Dinisho,Head Quarter	21/02/2011	Park Warden
Geremew Mebratu	Dinisho,Head Quarter	20/02/2011 5/03/2011	Tourism expert of the BMNP
Anouska Kinhan,	Dinisho,Head quarter	21/02/2011	Deputy Project Manager of Frankfurt Zoological Society
Zarayoo Indalo	Dinisho	21/02/2011, 2/03/2011	Culture and Tourism Case worker of Dinisho Wereda
Haji Ume	Dinisho	24/02/2011	Chief of scouts, BMNP
Jarso Belda	Goba	22/02/2011	Head ,culture and tourism
Mesbuha Abdulwaheb	Robe	23/02/2011	Head, Culture and Tourism Office of Sinana Wereda